

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 72

SPRING 2012

WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA CONVENTION



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## President's Message

Spring came early this year! With our glass half full we can think of this as a chance to get out into the yard to do our spring clean up a month earlier than usual. With our glass half empty we can cower in front of the computer, tuned into Accuweather.com, praying that the predicted hard frost does not come to fruition. I choose to do the former. Already I've planted a few vegetables and perennials, and anxiously await the arrival of the boxes of plants that I ordered last winter. Most of the hostas that I brought with me from Illinois last fall have greeted their first Wisconsin spring and their companion wildflowers are in full bloom. I look forward to adding more to the collection soon.

With a successful Winter Scientific Meeting behind us (accompanied by one of the few significant snows of the winter, of course!), we can shift our attention to Rochester in July. Co-chairs Cindy Tomashek and June Stoehr and The Shades of Green Hosta Society have put together a spectacular show. To see the details, go to [midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org) and follow the links. "Operation Hosta" is one appointment you don't want to miss. Besides the garden visits and meeting new friends, I can't wait to see what hostas the vendors have brought that are musts for my new garden.

So get outside and work in your garden! And while you're weeding and dividing, say a quick prayer that the weather will remain favorable and temperatures will be moderate.

See you in Rochester, MN on July 12-14.

Glenn Herold

## Wanted

**Host Societies for future 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. See the write-up on page 18 for the MRHS policy on helping with the Auction effort.**

## A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE 2010 WSM

With a winter snow storm closing in on Lisle, IL, there was ample reason for concern with so many people scheduled to arrive on Friday night prior to the start of the Winter Scientific Meeting. As it turned out, everyone coming in made it and both the local eateries and the Hospitality Room were well attended by people delighted to see friends and talk hostas in the middle of winter.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read the summaries of the various presentations which were both informative and entertaining. It is always a special pleasure to have Roy Klehm with us. Jeff Miller not only hit a home run with his Hybridizer's Perspective but he generously donated some Q&Z new introductions in four inch pots as well as one gal. size dormant hostas which were eagerly snapped up by bidders in the silent auction so ably organized by John Van Ostrand.

Next year Jeff Miller will be back with another presentation and Olga Petryszyn will also present. I hope that you will consider joining us in 2013.

Lou Horton

### 2012 Winter Scientific Meeting Financial Summary

No. of Registrations	142
Revenue:	
Registration Fees	\$7,310.00
Seed Auction Revenue	<u>\$1,404.00</u>
Total Revenue:	\$8,714.00
Expense:	
Hotel - Meals	\$8,470.40
Hotel - Rooms	\$ 350.76
Speaker Compensation	\$1,420.00
Seed Auction Expenses	\$ 409.15
Miscellaneous-Printing	<u>\$ 36.69</u>
Total Expense:	\$10,687.00
Net :	(\$1,973.00)

## Trees for the Hosta Garden—summary

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

What makes a good hosta garden tree?

Root anatomy - Monocots vs. Dicots

Dicots have "taproot" system, monocots have "fibrous"

In dicots, most feeder roots are in the top 6" of soil

Rooting depth depends on soil conditions

"The Vegetation of Wisconsin"

Written by John T. Curtis, published in 1959

Gives insight into the adaptability of tree roots and the tree's suitability for use in the hosta garden

Riverbottom Trees: Greater proportion of roots at the surface of the soil.

More competition for the hostas

Upland Trees: More suitable; less competition with the hosta roots

Small Trees for the Hosta Garden: Mature at less than 25 feet

*Acer japonicum* 'Green Cascade'

Green Cascade Fullmoon Maple

*Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'

Cutleaf Fullmoon Maple

*Acer cissifolium*

Ivy-leaved Maple

*Acer griseum*

Paperbark Maple

*Acer maximowiczianum*

Nikko Maple

*Acer* 'White Tigress'

White Tigress Maple

*Acer triflorum*

Three-flowered Maple

*Carpinus caroliniana*

Blue Beech; American Hornbeam

*Magnolia virginiana*

Sweetbay Magnolia

Medium Trees for the Hosta Garden: Mature between 25 and 40 feet

*Ostrya virginiana*

Hop Hornbeam

*Magnolia 'Butterflies'*

Butterflies Magnolia

*Sorbus alnifolia*

Korean Mountainash

Tall Trees for the Hosta Garden: Mature over 40 feet

*Carya cordiformis*

Bitternut Hickory

*Fagus grandifolia*

American Beech

*Ginkgo biloba*

Maidenhair Tree

*Gymnocladus dioica*

Kentucky Coffeetree

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

American Sweetgum

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

Tuliptree

*Magnolia acuminata*

Cucumbertree Magnolia

*Quercus alba*

White Oak

*Quercus bicolor*

Swamp White Oak

*Quercus macrocarpa*

Bur Oak

*Quercus muehlenbergii*

Chinkapin Oak

*Quercus rubra*

Red Oak

*Ulmus 'Accolade'*

Accolade Elm

*Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'*

Triumph™ Elm

# TREES FOR THE HOSTA GARDEN

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

It's a well known fact that in order to grow hostas successfully, you need to have some shade. Part shade is considered the ideal amount for most hostas. Too much shade restricts growth, and too little increases the water requirements and risks scorching the leaves of the hostas. But the below ground characteristics of trees also play a role in the successful hosta garden. It is this feature that we will consider.

What characteristics are ideal for the hosta garden tree? As mentioned above, dappled shade is most desirable. Also, minimal twig and fruit drop keeps the ground clean and reduces maintenance. Strong wood is a must. The tree roots should provide minimal competition with the hostas for water and nutrients, and provide adequate space for both to develop. Let's examine that root system further.

The first root that comes from the embryo of a seed is the primary root, also called the radicle. In gymnosperms, such as pines, spruces, and dicotyledonous plants (most deciduous trees and shrubs), it forms the taproot. Lateral roots develop from the primary, both near the root tip and near where the root and stem meet. In gymnosperms and dicots, the taproot continues to survive and functions in taking up water and nutrients.

In a monocot, such as grasses, daylilies, and hostas, the taproot is short lived. New roots come from adventitious root buds that develop on stem tissue near the soil surface. The root system that develops is fibrous, and generally shallower than the root system of dicots. It is because of this that monocots are generally more sensitive to soil moisture stress than dicots.

The depth of the tree's roots depends on many factors, such as soil structure, soil texture, and moisture content. All affect the oxygen present in the soil. It is important to remember that roots grow *between* soil particles. This is the space in the soil taken up by air and water. Like the top of the plant, roots also need oxygen to grow and survive. Roots do not search for oxygen and water. If both are present to their satisfaction the roots will grow. So the depth of rooting or the extent of a root system is entirely dependent on the oxygen and moisture levels. In most trees the vast majority of the feeder roots, those that take up water and nutrients, are within 15 cm (6 in) of the soil surface, though some may penetrate to a meter (3 ft) or more. The spread of a root system usually extends well beyond the drip line of the tree. In other words, the root system of a tree is shaped more like a pancake than a carrot. Prairie plants, which include both monocots and dicots, are well known for their deep root systems. They have evolved in an environment that often includes extended periods of drought, necessitating their need to take up moisture from deeper regions of the soil. Though prairie soils typically are of a silt loam or clay loam texture, excellent structure allows the roots, and oxygen, to penetrate to depths uncharacteristic of most plants.

In order to predict the suitability of tree species for the hosta garden, I turned to a book that I first used during my graduate days at the University of Wisconsin - Madison: *The Vegetation of Wisconsin, an Ordination of Plant Communities* by John T. Curtis, University of Wisconsin Press, 1959. In my graduate studies, Dr. Ed Hasselkus often referred to trees as "riverbottom trees" or "timber trees." Riverbottom trees are native on floodplains and subject to periodic flooding or high water tables. Timber trees are on soils that rarely stay saturated for extended periods. Communities of Dr. Curtis' book that would be considered riverbottom include trees

such as Willow, Cottonwood, River Birch, Swamp White Oak, American Elm, Green Ash, Silver Maple, and trees that have followed the river systems north such as Honeylocust, Ohio Buckeye, and Sycamore. Timber trees include many oak species (White, Red, Chinkapin, Bur, etc.), Basswood, Hickory, Sugar Maple, Beech, White and Blue Ash, Kentucky Coffeetree, Black Walnut, and Black Cherry. Curtis also includes Red Maple in the timber tree category. This may be true of those native to Wisconsin, but in other areas of its native range it grows in the wetlands and thus would be classified as a riverbottom tree.

Riverbottom trees must be able to survive under a wide range of conditions, including flooding and drought. The soil is often low in oxygen, or has poor structure. The trees have adapted by developing a shallow, dense root system. They are often used as street trees because of their ease of transplant and ability to survive under harsh conditions. Though we see a lot of them in our neighborhoods, and they can survive where other trees fail, they are not always ideal candidates for the hosta garden because of their aggressive, dense roots, which compete with the hosta roots.

Though Curtis examines only trees native to Wisconsin, we have the luxury of using trees from around the world. Let's examine some of those that I have successfully used or seen being used in the hosta garden, starting with trees in the small (below 25 feet) category.



*Acer japonicum* 'Green Cascade'



*Acer* 'White Tigress'

Small maples make excellent companions for hostas in the shade garden. Unlike their tall relatives, small maples are native upland understory trees, mainly found in the Orient. They have evolved with other plants in close proximity and thus do not present the root competition that their taller American and European natives do. Some of my favorites are cultivars of the Fullmoon Maple (*Acer japonicum*) such as 'Green Cascade' and 'Aconitifolium', the Ivy-leaved Maple (*Acer cissifolium*), Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*), Nikko Maple (*Acer maximowiczianum*), Three-flowered Maple (*Acer triflorum*), and most of all a hybrid between *Acer pennsylvanicum* and *Acer tegmentosum* called 'White Tigress'. Most of these have outstanding foliage, fall color, and bark interest.

Another small tree worthy of incorporating into the hosta garden is the northern US species Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*, also known as American Hornbeam or Musclewood.) This birch relative has sinewy bark interest and may have excellent fall foliage color.



Fruit of *Ostrya virginiana*, Hop Hornbeam

Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is native to the Southern US, where it becomes a tall tree, but is hardy to the north where it stays in the small range. Flowers are borne sporadically through the summer and provide outstanding fragrance for the garden. I have planted herbaceous plants, including hostas, right up to the trunk without any problems.

Trees in the medium (maturing at 25 to 40 feet) category are rare compared to the other size classes. One of the best is our native Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). Related to both birches and hornbeams, it has fine bark texture and interesting hop-like fruit. Problems are rare with this tough upland tree. Another group of

medium trees is the yellow-flowered Magnolia hybrids that include the Cucumbertree Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) as one of their parents. 'Butterflies' is an outstanding cultivar. Some references rate these as small trees, but with the tall Cucumbertree in its blood, it is likely to reach over 25 feet. A third medium-sized tree to consider is the Korean Mountainash (*Sorbus alnifolia*). Unlike the European Mountainash, this one has few problems with diseases. Flowers, fruit, and an interesting bark pattern will have you wondering why we don't see this tree used more often. Eventually, it may get into the tall category.

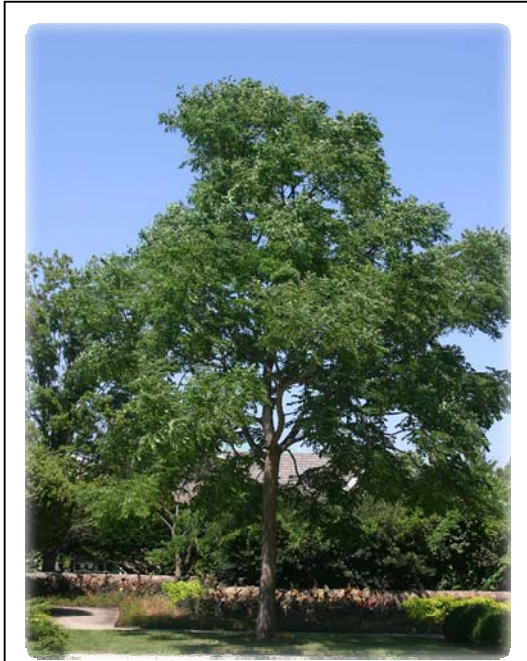
Tall trees (over 40 feet at maturity) are the backbone of the shady hosta garden. As mentioned earlier, those of upland origin provide the least root competition and most drought tolerance. Hickories (*Carya*) are excellent trees, but many are difficult to transplant and slow growing. Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) is one of the easier species to transplant and grows at a medium rate on good soil. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is one of the dominant trees of the Eastern deciduous forest. Its bronze fall color and smooth gray bark provide off-season interest. Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) is known by all but shied away from by many because of its perceived slow growth rate. However, on decent soil it grows at a moderate rate and has no insect or disease problems. Another underutilized native tree is the Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*). In its infancy it is a hard sell because of sparse branching, but develops into a fine moderately-dense tree. Plant the cultivar 'Stately Manor' if you don't want to take chances on fruit developing in middle age.

A couple of excellent trees that may not be hardy in the far north are Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Both are hardy in



*Sorbus alnifolia*, Korean Mountainash





***Gymnocladus dioica*, Kentucky Coffeetree**

southeast Wisconsin, but may not make it further north. Sweetgum is known for its outstanding fall color and star-shaped leaves, while Tuliptree also has an interesting leaf shape. Tuliptree flowers resemble those of magnolias, to which it is closely related.

I mentioned Cucumbertree Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) earlier as a parent of the yellow-flowered magnolia hybrids, but it is a fine tree in and of itself. Though it doesn't have notable flowers or fall color, its large leaves provide a bold texture, which matches well with hostas, and it is disease free. Native to the Alleghenies, it has excellent hardiness in the midwest.

Many oaks provide excellent shade for the hosta garden. White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) are all notable upland trees. Even the riverbottom species, Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*), is compatible

with understory plants. Chinkapin Oak was named the 2009 urban tree of the year.

Though I haven't had much experience working with the many elm hybrids now on the market, I will end this article by mentioning the two that are considered the best of the bunch. They are 'Accolade,' a cross between *Ulmus japonica* and *Ulmus wilsonii*, and Triumph™ ('Morton Glossy'), a cross between 'Accolade' and 'Vanguard.' I would appreciate any feedback you have on using these plants in the hosta garden, or with any others that you deem worthy.

Submitted by Glenn Herold



***Ulmus 'Accolade'***

## SO YOU WANT TO CREATE A WATER FEATURE

At our Winter Scientific Meeting in January, Rafal Feducik, Construction Foreman of Aquascape Designs, gave a fascinating presentation about installing water features in gardens.

A “water feature” can be installed in a space five feet by five feet, by two feet deep, up to much larger waterfalls, streams, and koi-filled ponds. Cost ranges from around \$2,500 for a smaller “pondless” feature, installed by a contractor to three or four times that amount. A contractor, such as Aquascape Designs [SEE BELOW] can supply plans, pump, plumbing, filtration system, rocks and gravel, fish, and plants. Crews can completely install water features, or simply provide all materials for sturdy homeowners to install.

A pump and plumbing create oxygen, move water, and avoid stagnation. A filtration system consists of mechanical filtration, with a “skimmer,” and beneficial biological filtration. Rocks and gravel assist in filtration, increase biological activity but even more importantly naturalize the area. Fish may include 8-10 inch koi. Plants reduce algae, cover 50% of the pond area, soften the appearance, and complete the wonderful visual effect.

Worried about the neighbors’ inquisitive children? Our speaker told us about a pondless water system, which is simply a waterfall without the pond. Installation of a water feature near your house insures wonderful sound!

Rafal exposed a few “myths.” Following directions will prevent raccoons or herons from eating your fish. A pond need not be three feet in depth; 18 inches will suffice. Mosquitoes will not be a problem with moving water. Concrete is not better than a rubber liner. The leaves of your prize trees need not be a problem, with the use of a skimmer and perhaps netting in late fall and winter.

Aquascape Designs serves the metropolitan Chicago area. Check your yellow pages if you live elsewhere. Or, since this company has trained other contractors all over our region, contact them at [www.aquascapeinc.com](http://www.aquascapeinc.com) to find a trained contractor near you.

[Aquascape Designs, 901 Aqualand Way, St. Charles, IL, 60174,  
(630) 659-2057, [www.AQUASCAPEINC.COM](http://www.AQUASCAPEINC.COM)]

Submitted by Irwin Johnson

**Midwest Regional Hosta Society**  
**Actual versus Budget**  
1/1/2011—12/31/2011

<u>Category</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<b>Income:</b>				
Convention	\$6,153.97	\$4,575.00	\$1,578.97	
Income-Interest	\$305.44	\$0.00	\$305.44	\$2.70 savings, 302.74 mutual fund
Membership	<u>\$4,860.51</u>	<u>\$1,660.00</u>	<u>\$3,200.51</u>	490 members
Subtotal	<u>\$11,319.92</u>	<u>\$6,235.00</u>	<u>\$5,084.92</u>	Actual over Budget
<b>Expense:</b>				
Grant	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	For AHS Virus Research
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$360.00	(\$360.00)	For AHS Online Award and Montgomery Award
Newsletter	\$5,956.39	\$7,000.00	(\$1,043.61)	
Internet Site	\$191.52	\$225.00	(\$33.48)	
Winter Scientific	<u>\$4,852.96</u>	<u>\$4,450.00</u>	<u>\$402.96</u>	OverBudget
Subtotal	<u>\$12,000.87</u>	<u>\$13,035.00</u>	<u>(\$1,034.13)</u>	Actual under Budget
<b>Totals</b>	<u>(\$680.95)</u>	<u>(\$6,800.00)</u>		<u>Income was better than budgeted and expenses were lower than budgeted</u>
<b>Account Balances:</b>				
Checking	\$10,662.28			
Savings	\$0.00			
Mutual Fund	<u>\$23,291.10</u>			
Total Assets	<b>\$33,953.38</b>			

Respectfully  
submitted,

Barbara Schroeder  
Treasurer

January 21, 2012

## MY FAVORITE GARDEN PLANTS

There's no way to replicate in words the charm, humor, knowledge, and shared experience of Roy Klehm (Song Sparrow Farm & Nursery) presenting "My Favorite Garden Plants," nor the sheer pleasure of viewing inspiring color photos of his approximately 97 plants (many of which were in flower, and which included a number of trees and shrubs) in the dead of winter; indeed, during a snowstorm. Wish you'd been there!

The Klehms have been in the nursery business since 1852, when Roy's great-grandfather began growing fruit trees, small fruits and some conifers for the Christmas trade. The Klehms have given us many new plants over the years, including woody introductions (especially tree peonies) as well as herbaceous plants (e.g., daylilies, peonies and hostas). Roy has also worked with various hybridizers to introduce some of the best shade trees, crabapples, magnolias and lilacs in the industry. (His list of favorite plants includes two of these hybridizers and many of their trees.) Taking this family nursery-business longevity and their extensive list of plant hybridizations into account when discussing his favorite clematis, Roy joked that the genus was actually *Klehmatis*. With regular jokes like these peppering his presentation, it's more like *Klehmatis cornioides* (Latin for "similar to corn"), if you ask me....

Roy and his wife Sarah personally tend a 30-year-old, 12-acre ornamental garden at their home in South Barrington and his photos came from this garden. His list of plants was divided into times of the year (Early Spring) and various other logical groupings such as "Greek Mythological Shrubs" (tree peonies), "Herb's Acious Peonies," "Some Beech Somewhere," and "John the Baptisia". Like I said, *cornioides*—but a cute one.

Of course, it's impossible to go through Roy's entire list, so I'll just give you some highlights and encourage you to explore other favorites on his list.

Early spring:

- ... *Chionodoxa* 'Glory of the Snow' – great blue color, a lovely groundcover
- ... *Tulipa tarda* – species tulip – one of Roy's favorite early tulips, shown blooming along a path of pavers
- ... *Scilla siberica* – Siberian Squill – another early spring bloomer of beautiful blue
- ... *Helleborus* – Roy advised us to "try to grow named hybrids" of hellebores. (They do seed around and lose their breeding with abandon.)
- ... *Mertensia virginica* – Virginia Bluebells – Another of his favorite spring flowers, and another lovely blue

From the "Spring Small Group":

- ... *Syringa vulgaris* 'Fiala Remembrance', the "best double-white French variety" among a group of lilacs he featured, all of which were hybridized by Father John L. Fiala and are "not your grandma's lilacs" (thank goodness!)
- ... The crabapples Roy talked about bloom from top to bottom, and the small berries hang on the trees longer than most varieties—until well into Spring. He highlighted *Malus* 'Satin Clouds' for the best Fall color and golden fruit.

- ... One of his top five magnolias was “*Magnolia* x ‘Marilyn’ (not a typo), a pink variety hybridized, like the others, by Phil Savage.
- ... Clematis: for a nice blue, Roy recommended ‘Blue Angel’, and for an abundant display, ‘Matka Urszula Ledochowska’. *C. integrifolia* ‘Rooguchi’ was also shown with its lovely bell-shaped (blue!) flowers of substance. (It’s a powerhouse clematis, almost on the order of ‘Sweet Autumn’, and is similarly no prima donna in terms of culture.)
- ... Roy showed us a climbing hydrangea, *H. petiolaris*, which also comes in a variegated form, climbing up a tree in their garden; it was quite impressive. He pointed out that this plant needs wood or stone in order to climb.
- ... The dogwood tree *Cornus mas* ‘Variegata’ that Roy showed, creating lust in more than a few members of the audience—count me among them—is “very sought after.” Another of his favorites, *C. alternifolia* Golden Shadows™, was very nice with hostas planted beneath it.
- ... If you’re looking for a very narrow spruce, *Pinus glauca* ‘Pendula’ – Weeping White Spruce – can fill the need.
- ... Roy and Sarah’s garden also features a stunning yellow beech, *Fagus sylvatica* ‘Dawyck Gold’. We’ll all just have to wish forever (if you have the time) to have one in our gardens, since it took Roy three years to beg it off another nurseryman, and you and I probably don’t have that kind of clout.

A couple combinations we saw that were lovely: fruit trees underplanted with daffodils and tree peonies; and tulips, magnolias, and/or crabapples inter- and underplanted with various bulbs. These blooming groundcovers formed a lovely soft and colorful carpet.

The Klehm family is famous for their peonies, and Roy told us they have focused their efforts on producing shorter plants with stronger stems, classier performance, and more fragrance. We learned that it takes about 25 years to get a new peony from seed to market: the seed alone takes two years to germinate, and the plants must be grown and divided numerous times to have enough to sell.

We did get a tip when ordering from Song Sparrow: never hassle the order taker! If you don’t hassle her, she will find the best and, when applicable, most variegated plant; if you do hassle her (“I want the most variegated one you have, hear me?!”)—well, at your own risk.

And then Roy went “moo-ving along” (note the lovely cow on the overhead). We look forward to the next time, *Klehmatis cornioides*.

Submitted by Diann Thoma



*Fagus sylvatica* ‘Dawyck Gold’

## WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOSTAS THAT NO ONE ELSE KNEW EITHER

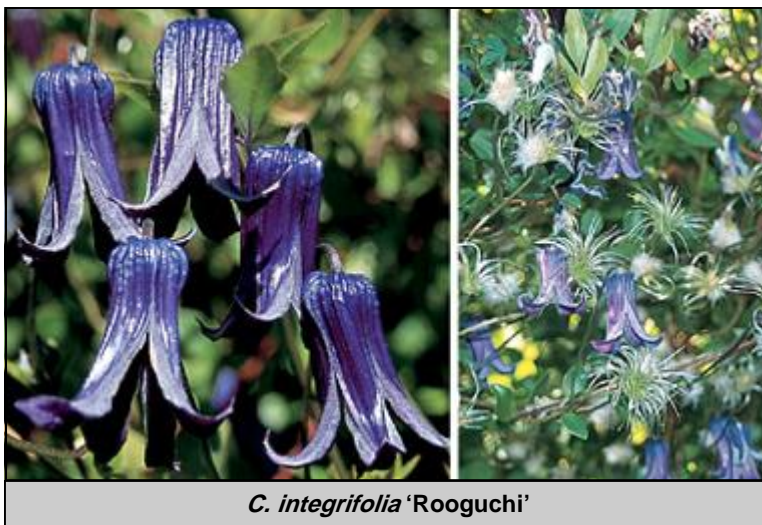
C.H.Falstad, our speaker, enthusiastically started the talk with the idea of reviewing scientific technique and using it to study a problem. Then he wanted to lead a discussion of topics brought up by the audience.

First we would state a problem. We would make predictions about what may work. Then we would experiment while accounting for variables. Our results were to be evaluated by others to see if our solution would work for them too.

The group was receptive. But then the first suggested topic was the botanical “n” word – NEMATODE. What followed was a rehash of backyard experiments that many had tried. Home scientists had tried: boiling, bleaching, bake in an oven, bake in a sunny car, soak in hydrogen peroxide. Also mentioned were toxic chemicals that were more likely to kill the gardener than the problem life form. A novel suggestion was to microwave the top 6 inches of soil. Do you think the local airport would lend its radar dish? (Yes, they can be re-tuned and used to microwave if pointed at the ground.) Last but not least we could wash the bugs in soapy water and then finish then with an alcohol rub down. This was our testing.

A lively discussion showed that many people have tried the above methods and come to the same conclusions. After about 10 years of studying nematodes we will state our confirmed results by paraphrasing Col.Hogan’s favorite guard. “I know nothing (that no one else knew either).”

Submitted by Dave Collura of New Berlin,Wi



# BRINGING A NEW HOSTA TO MARKET

Hybridizing, Selection, Production and Marketing

Bob Solberg, January 21, 2012

This year Bob tackled a subject near and dear to the hearts of those of us who have ever fantasized about seeing our own sports or seedlings in the pages of Roy Klehm's beautiful catalog. That subject was how and when, and possibly if, you should make your special plant available to the world. Bob was in good form in bringing solid information, and a good dose of reality, with his trademark humor.

There are hundreds of new hostas in production every year, too many, in Bob's opinion, but the numerous hybridizers and sport fisherman all want a piece of the markets. For hybridizers, having goals and a vision of what you want to create is very important. If you are hunting sports, knowing what is already in the market is essential because avoiding duplication is a key for both sports and seedlings. For the hybridizer, patience will certainly be necessary. From seed to retail will take eight years minimum. Sports will reduce this timeline significantly, but you need to be sure your sport is not the same as another already in the marketplace.

How do you select the best hostas? Is your prize plant distinct and recognizable or is it just "pretty"? Does your plant stand alone? Although most people buy "pretty," there are a lot of pretty hostas already in the market. If you are hybridizing, does it fulfill the goal you set? And, perhaps most importantly, does it grow? Perhaps your prize is best suited for a prominent place in your own yard rather than a nursery's shelves. Marketability is often the principal deciding factor.

Once you have determined that your plant meets all the criteria to take the hosta world by storm, now you have to find someone to tissue culture it and bring it into market. Bob suggests that for you to shop it around and get your feelings hurt might not be the best next step. Instead, ask yourself what your goals really are. Do you hybridize for yourself or do you want your hostas distributed widely? You may decide that selling only original divisions at higher prices is your best course. If you decide you need a marketing partner, ask yourself who fits best with your goals. Who will bring it to market and how will you get paid? How many plants should be produced to meet expected demand? The large producers usually select only a few plants to produce each year. Ultimately, it will probably be the nurseries that market the plants that will decide the commercial viability of your prize. How will it stand up in attractiveness and price with competing plants? How does it grow in the nursery? Another issue for decision is when is a patent a good idea? Will the patent expense be justified and who will enforce it? Investigate your options and read the fine print. Remember that bringing a plant to market is a business relationship, even if you are dealing with friends.

Whew! Sounds like a lot to think about, but don't lose sight of the fact that it is supposed to be FUN. Keep in mind that it can be and should be fun for everyone.

Submitted by Owen Purvis

## HYBRIDIZER'S PERSPECTIVE

Jeff Miller, owner of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm in Milton, WI, began his 'Hybrizer's Perspective' by sharing his first experience growing hosta seeds. "I just started growing some seeds. I had one pod of H. 'Fat Cat' - 24 seeds. 24 seeds germinated, and I got 24 different looking plants from one pod. "In my mind, I thought a bee pollinated it, and I should have gotten 24 plants that looked exactly the same. That didn't happen so that started my interest in the genetics in hostas, and I started hybridizing hostas to see what I would get. So this is a little bit of my journey."

Several years ago Terri Meyer contacted Jeff online asking if he had any hosta seeds to share. They discovered that they live just four miles apart. As Terri grew the seeds, she asked Jeff many questions about seed growing and hybridizing. She didn't have many hostas of her own so Jeff offered to let her come make crosses in his garden. "She was there every single morning." Jeff eventually asked her if she wanted to be his hybridizing partner.

"Great passion! Great interest! Actually it helps me. My passion is giants. I love giant hostas! Most of my crosses are for the biggest of the biggest. Her passion is minis. We kid each other all the time."

Before any crosses are made, Jeff and Terri study hosta characteristics in the garden to determine each plant's strengths. "I'm feeling the leaves. I'm counting the veins. I'm picking the leaves up to see what they look like underneath."

They also utilize *The Hostapedia* and the Hosta Library to learn what dominant characteristics each plant can pass on to its offspring. "Does it pass on round leaves? Does it pass on corrugation? Does it pass on red? So before we put any pollen down we have a little bit of a game plan of what we want to do.

"In the gardens, we have over 2100 varieties of plants we can play with. All of these plants have a little bit of a different genetic trait to try to put something into the new plants. I like to work with giants. Terri likes minis. But it doesn't mean that growing giants I'm not going to get a mini out of it. With her growing mini seeds, it doesn't mean she won't get giants out of them."

"I found a streaked H. 'Azure Snow'. I used this thing for years, grew the seeds - never got a streaked plant from it. A couple of years ago for some reason I planted 20 of the seedlings out. The following year every one of those 20 were streaked - never showed anything that first year."

Jeff said, "Every year I do tests." The Stegeman's H. 'Skylight' is dominant in both its excellent blue color and its leaf shape. He used two plants in an attempt to determine if the  $f_1$  seedlings will differ from the parent. One he allowed to be open pollinated and the second was crossed with H. *montana macrophylla* and H. 'Niagara Falls'. He is growing on about 2000 H. 'Skylight' seedlings. "It's a time thing. I've got the room to plant them out and see what happens." If unsuccessful, he plans to cross  $f_1$  seedlings back to their pollen parents to break the dominance and get the desired size and ripples while retaining the desirable blue coloring.

"At the point of time we know exactly what we are going to do, we have everything written



down – what is going to flower, when it's going to flower, what we're going to use for pollen. Pod parents are not created equal. Some give great seeds, lots of seeds – some don't."

Jeff and Terri make about 5000 crosses each year and are dedicated to accurately recording the pollen used on each flower. They use string tags and Jeff commented, "It's a little bit of a pain unraveling the strings when you're doing it, but if you just take some time, it's not that terrible."

Scapes are harvested when the first pods are slightly older than two months since the last pods formed are given as long as possible to mature. "We wait until the pods are starting to open." They are placed in brown paper bags labeled with the pod parents and stored to finish drying.

Care is taken to be sure each cross is labeled properly when individual pods are harvested. "Without that information if you're going to an  $f_2$  or an  $f_3$  to try to develop something more, you're struggling a little bit." After the seeds are cleaned, packaged, and labeled, they go into the freezer.

Jeff plants in 7 oz. plastic cups with the cross written on each cup. The cups fit perfectly into 32 cell trays. The trays are placed on heating pads at 78°F in the dark for 10 days. When seeds begin germinating, they go under the lights. Not all seeds are viable or germinate well. "Even if I can only get one seedling from that cross I'm happy."

To make watering easier, Jeff made a watering tool from easy-to-find parts that connects to any sink or garden hose. It has cut the time he spends watering from several hours to about 20 minutes. He bottom waters and fertilizes with half strength Scotts® Miracle-Gro® Tomato Fertilizer each watering. The fertilizer is mixed in a 35 gallon trash can and dispensed by a submersible garden pump.

This winter Jeff waited until December 1<sup>st</sup> to plant his 2011 seeds. In the past when he started them earlier, they grew too big before the temperature was warm enough to move them outside. "At the end I've got 5000 seedlings – there's so much humidity in my basement. It's a whole lot more like work instead of fun so I started them later."

90% of the seedlings are culled when they are upcapped. "You just can't grow them all. You're really trying for the different – the best of the best." If he likes the cross with a streaked pod parent, but doesn't get any streaked seedlings then he keeps a couple of the blue or yellow seedlings.

Showing a picture of first year seedlings he's kept after culling, Jeff said, "Terri has just as many seedlings that she keeps. We grow a lot of seeds and keep a lot of seedlings. The first year I grew seedlings I ended up keeping 1000, and out of those I've kept 50 to this point."

Seedlings are planted in rows of the same pod parent and a label with the pollen parent is placed in the roots. As plants are culled, those labels are removed and Jeff notes in his records why he wasn't happy with the result of the cross.

"We can try to enhance or put ripples on something, but until you give it time to mature you don't know what you're going to have and lots of times there's great surprises. Surprises are always wonderful for me.

"About the three year stage, I start culling really heavy, and I just keep a couple of the best of each cross to see which one is going to get me what I want. I've noticed that between the third

and fourth years, the characteristics really come into play. I want to give them enough time, but I need the garden space for other things so when it's time to cull I cull. If it's got some merit, I keep it.

“Right now after all the culling I've probably got about 11,000 seedlings in my garden. Nothing is named. You get a little partial to them when they're your 'babies'. I do want to get them out on the market. I want to make sure it's worthy. I don't want to just put anything out there. So I really want to take the personality out of a plant and critique it as a garden worthy plant.”

Showing a picture of him with hybridizing friends from the Hosta Seed Growers Forum, Jeff said, “The best thing about hybridizing is the great people you get to meet. In the hybridizers, we're a family. We all strive to do the same thing. We help each other out. In the olden days, I heard that everybody kept all the secrets to themselves. They didn't talk a lot. We want our secrets out. We want to be able to help each other. And in turn that helps me and everybody else, too. The greatest thing is the people. The people are unbelievable!”

<http://www.hostaseedgrowers.com/>

Submitted by Reldon Ramsey

## **MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY AUCTION GUIDELINES**

02/01/2010

At the board meeting on 1/22/2010 the Board agreed to offer to help any society hosting a MRHS convention with Auction. The following are guidelines for auction assistance that the MRHS will offer to provide and guidelines for the local society:

MRHS: (Contact and Coordinator is the MRHS - Vice President)

1. The MRHS will solicit donations for the auction from outside of the local sponsoring society area. The local society will furnish the MRHS a local address for delivery of any donations that will arrive prior to the convention.
2. The MRHS will provide the computer software program to run the auction (check in, bidding, and checkout) updated for the current auction.
3. The MRHS will provide a person to train the volunteers on how to check in donations.
4. The MRHS will provide the charge card machine and charge slips plus train local society volunteers on the use of the machine for auction checkout. MRHS will pick up the charge card fees.
5. The MRHS will provide the labels for the Donation room (Labels are used for donated pots and other donated items.)
6. If needed, the MRHS Treasurer will provide training for the auction check out process. The treasurer will receive immediately after the auction a balanced and item-

ized list of bidders and amount due and paid as provided in the software. The Treasurer will take back a copy of the software so that MRHS can send thank you letters to all donors. The local society will mail a check for the proceeds to the treasurer. If there are reimbursement items from MRHS to the local society the receipts are to be mailed to the treasurer and the MRHS will send a separate check for expenses.

7. If required, the MRHS will assist the Local Society in selecting Auctioneers for the auction.

Hosting Society: (Contact and Coordinator of Local Society Convention - Auction Chair)

1. Hosting Society will solicit and pickup donations from the local area (Nurseries, members, etc) and furnish a local address to the MRHS for any donations solicited by the MRHS that will arrive prior to the convention.
2. Hosting Society will receive any plants mailed and pot them if necessary.
3. Hosting Society will provide a locked room to receive donations and a room/space for the auction.
4. Hosting Society will provide the following volunteers:
  - ... 3 volunteers per hour to receive and catalog donations.
  - ... Minimum of 3 volunteers to move plants from Donation Room to Auction Room at the proper time.
  - ... 4 volunteers to run the computers, credit card machine, and record bids at the auction.
  - ... 3 to 4 spotters and doorpersons during the auction and after. (Need to be sure no one leaves with a plant without a paid receipt from the checkout desk.)
4. Hosting Society will provide a person that will enter all attendee names, addresses, phone and email into the software database before the first day of the convention.
5. Before the auction begins the Hosting Society will get copies made (or we will print from the printer we are using for donations) of the Bidder's Auction List that will be printed after all donations are received. This list will be available for each attendee as they enter the auction room.
6. Hosting Society will need to provide two computers (one for Donation Room and one or two during Check out (it is easier with two networked together at check out) plus a printer for the donation room. The printer can be moved from the donation room to the check out area for the auction as it will also be needed during the auction.
7. Hosting Society will provide, at their expense, 2 reams of paper for all printing needs along with pens for the donation room and check out table. Please be sure there is enough toner in the printer or have an extra cartridge available.
8. Hosting Society will decide if they are doing a silent auction as well as live auction before the software is updated and sent to hosting society by MRHS.
9. Hosting Society will provide some currency to make change for the check out table.
10. Hosting Society will make sure there are enough electrical outlets for the computers and printers in the donation room as well as at the check out table. They will also make sure there is a phone line for the charge card machine, at the check out table.

Shades of Green Hosta Society  
of Southeast Minnesota

**Proudly Presents**

*Operation Hosta:  
An Affair of the Heart*

**Midwest Regional Hosta Convention  
Hosta Show**

**At**

**Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, Rochester, Minnesota**

**Friday, July 13, 2012**

**SHOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**3-5 pm Friday, July 13; 9 am- 4pm Sat., July 14, 2012**

**This Hosta Show is accredited by  
THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY**

## 2012 MRHS Convention - "Operation Hosta"

2012 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Registration Form  
July 12-14, 2012, Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Rochester, Minnesota  
Hosted by: Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast MN, Inc.

To register, mail one completed registration form per person.  
Include check payable to "SOGHS/2012 MRHS Convention" or you can pay online with a credit card (additional \$5 convenience fee) at: [www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/](http://www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/)  
**REFUND POLICY: NO Refunds will be made after June 9.** Make a copy of this form for your records.

Name (as you want on your badge) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL: Ramada Hotel and Convention Center**  
1517 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902  
For reservations call (507) 289-8866 or Toll Free 800-552-7224. Mention MRHS Convention for convention room rate (\$109 pool side, \$94 other, plus tax) through 06/11/2012. Rate not available on-line.

Publish my name in Convention  
Attendee list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\*Confirmation will be sent by e-mail only. For questions email [prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:prestonplants@aol.com).

**Meals include:** Friday Evening Buffet, Saturday Tour Box Lunch, and Saturday Evening Banquet  
Saturday Evening Banquet choice:  Chicken  Walleye  Vegetarian  
 I request all vegetarian meals  I request gluten free meals

I will donate plants or items for the Friday night auction. Approximate number \_\_\_\_\_  
Auction proceeds go to MRHS. Please support MRHS with a donation!!

**HOSTA LEAF SHOW** – Preparation time Thursday 7/12/12: Noon – 5, 7-10 pm and Friday 7-10:30 am  
Check if you plan to:  Enter (Limit 20 leaves per exhibitor)  Judge  Clerk  
Judging will begin Friday, July 13, at 12 Noon Check below if you plan to enter:  
\_\_\_\_ Cut Leaf (limit 20 entries) \_\_\_\_\_ Trough Container for Effect  
\_\_\_\_ Container Grown \_\_\_\_\_ Educational Display  
\_\_\_\_ Artistic Design \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Competitive Exhibit

### Judges Clinic I, Friday, July 13, 2012, 8:00 -11:00 am

I will attend Judges Clinic I  
A current Judges Handbook is required. You may download the free Judges Handbook at [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org).  
 Check here if you want to purchase the official handbook/binder at the clinic (\$10.00 payable at convention).

Please select  
 \$135.00 – Early Full Registration (before June 7, 2012)  
 \$150.00 – Late Full Registration (after June 7, 2012)

Full Convention Registration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday Garden Picnic: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check to:  
Mona Keehn, Convention Treasurer  
1635 Chippewa Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
[soghscon@gmail.com](mailto:soghscon@gmail.com)

**OPTIONAL GARDEN PICNIC, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 6-8 PM**  
At Camp Creek Farm (Cindy and Mike Tomashek) near Preston, MN, in the heart of southeast Minnesota bluff country; includes busing, BBQ picnic, hosta gardens and renovated barn.

\$15.00/person

Check payable to:  
SOGHS/2012 MRHS CONVENTION  
 \*Paid online with credit card  
\*must mail or email registration form

## Show Committee:

Show Chair	Cindy Tomashek
Classification Chair	Sally Stewart
Schedule/Design Chair	Cindy Tomashek
Judges/Clerks Chair	Kim Larsen
Placement Chair	Carolyn Hamilton
Publicity Chair	Jan Gerke
Registration-Exhibitor Assist. Chair	Sandy Tomashek
Staging and Dismantling Chair	Cindy Tomashek/tbd
Tabulation Chair	Carolyn Hamilton

## 2012 MRHS Convention Schedule

*Room assignments subject to change*

### Wednesday, July 11

7:00 floor prep for vending, auction, leaf show set-up

### Thursday, July 12

8:30 am-Noon	Vendor Setup	Grand Ballroom A
9:00 am-Noon	Leaf Show Setup	Grand Ballroom B/C
1:00 - 5:00 pm	Hosta Show Entries (Prep)	Royale Ballroom B
Noon - 6:00 pm	Auction Plants Received	Royale B
Noon - 6:00 pm	Raffle Set-up/Sales	Hotel Lobby
Noon - 9:00 pm	Registration	Hotel Lobby
Noon - 5:30 pm	Vendor Sales- open to public	Grand Ballroom A
5:15 pm -	Bus departs for Garden Picnic	Outside Lobby
5:30 pm -	Bus departs for Garden Picnic	Outside Lobby
6:00 - 8:00 pm	Garden Picnic (Optional)	Camp Creek Farm
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Hosta Show Entries	Hallway
7:45 -	Bus departs for Hotel	
8:00 -	Bus departs for Hotel	
8:30 - 11:00 pm	Vendor Sales - open to public	Grand Ballroom A
9:00 - 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite/ Pool side

### Friday, July 13

Breakfast on your own	(Hotel guests receive complimentary Continental Breakfast)	
7:00 am - 10:30 am	Hosta Show Entries	Hallway
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Hotel Lobby
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Judges Clinic I	Royale Ballroom A
8:00 am - 2:00 pm	Auction Plants Received	Royale B
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Vendor Sales - open to public	Grand Ballroom A
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Raffle Sales	Hotel Lobby
11:15 am - 12:15 am	Educational Seminar (Rob Mortko - Tissue Culture for Dummies)	Royale A
11:00 am - Noon	Judges Luncheon Hotel	Breakfast Room
Lunch on your own		
Noon - 3:00 pm	Hosta Show Judging	Grand Ballroom B/C

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Education Seminar (Don Dean – My Path to Hosta Gardening)	Royale A
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Auction Preview	Royale B
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Education Seminar (Robert Solberg – Growing Hostas: The Bigger the Better )	Royale A
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration	Hotel Lobby
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Hosta Show Open - open to public	Grand Ballroom B/C
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	MRHS Board Meeting	Breakfast Room
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktails & Dinner Buffet	Royale AB
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Banquet	Royale AB
7:00 pm – 7:15 pm	MRHS Business Meeting	Royale AB
7:15 pm – 9:30 pm	Auction - open to public	Royale AB
9:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite/ Pool side

### Saturday, July 14

Breakfast on your own (Hotel guests receive complimentary Continental Breakfast)		
6:00 am – 7:30 am	Breakfast	Royale AB or Breakfast Room
6:00 am – 7:30 am	Registration	Convention Lobby
8:00 am – 1:30 pm	Garden Tours Buses	Hotel Front Lobby
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Hosta Show - open to public	Grand Ballroom B/C
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Hostatality	Hostality Suite/ Pool side
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	President's Meeting	Breakfast Room
4:00 pm	Leaf Show tear down	Grand Ballroom B/C
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Vendor Sales - open to public	Grand Ballroom A
4:00 pm	Vending tear down	Grand Ballroom A
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Unpotting/cleaning	North courtyard
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Raffle Sales	Hotel Lobby
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Raffle Drawing	Hotel Lobby
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Cocktails & Banquet	Royale AB
9:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Convention wrap-up meeting	Hotel Breakfast Room
9:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Hostatality Suite/ Pool side

### Sunday, July 15

remove any remaining items from hotel  
Optional Tour Gardens Open – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

# GENERAL SHOW RULES

Anyone who wishes to exhibit may do so. However, Section and higher awards are limited to AHS members. Any exhibitor who is not an AHS member and wins a section or higher award will be asked to become an AHS member. If the winner refuses membership, the Show Chair may either present the award to the next qualified entry or leave the award vacant.

Entries will be received from 1:00 – 5:00 pm on Thursday, July 12, and from 7:00 to 10:30 am on Friday, July 13, 2012. No late entries will be accepted. Judging will begin at 12:00 Noon. All entries must remain in place until 4:00 pm, Sat., July 14. Entries must be removed by 4:30 pm. Entries remaining after 4:30 pm will be disposed of by the Staging Committee. Entry tags, ribbons, and awards may also be claimed from 4:00 to 4:30 pm.

Entry tags must be properly completed by the exhibitor. Incorrect entry tag information will be corrected by the Classification Committee and entries may be disqualified at the discretion of the Classification Committee. A line has been added for leaf length and width to be entered by the exhibitor at time of entry.

During the time of judging, only the Show Chair, AHS Judges Chair, Judges and Clerks are permitted in the immediate judging area.

Divisions I-Horticulture, II – Container Grown Hosta, III-Trough/Container Gardens Arranged For Effect, and IV – Educational Displays, will be judged by panels of three to four AHS show judges including one master judge per panel. The AHS Point Scoring System will be used to break a tie in judging major awards. Each panel of Judges will be the final authority of each class it judges.

**Division VI- Artistic Design** will be judged by **Federated Garden Club of America Show Judges**.

All decisions of the judges are final.

Care will be taken, but no responsibility shall be incurred by any person, group, or organization for any accidents, damages, injuries, thefts, or omissions or commissions of any kind or nature from this show.

All entries designated as registered cultivars and species shall either be listed in the current year's AHS Hosta Show Classification List or shall have had registration data recorded in an official publication of The American Hosta Society by the date of the show in order to be considered registered for show purposes.

For all show divisions, provided entries score the minimum points, each sub-class (or class if there are no sub-classes or section if there are no classes) is allowed the awarding of only one blue, one red, one yellow, and one white ribbon. In Division I, Sections I-V and Section XI, each registered cultivar or species constitutes a separate name sub-class. Each seedling or sport entry in Sections VI-X is a separate sub-class and is eligible for any ribbon. For Section XII, each unregistered named cultivar constitutes a separate name sub-class within each alphabetical letter class.

## **Division I – Horticulture (Cut Leaf) Rules**

Containers will be provided by Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast MN.

Bloom scapes are not permitted in this division.

Sections I-V (Registered Cultivars and Species), XI (Youth Exhibits) and XII (Unregistered Named Cultivars) require **ONE** leaf per entry. Sections VI-X require **TWO** leaves per entry. Sports shall be indicated in the entry tag as "Sport of (Name of Cultivar)". Seedlings shall be indicated on the entry tag as "Seedling (Hybridizer's Identification Number)".

An exhibitor may enter more than one horticultural specimen in a single class provided each entry is of a different variety. **Multiple entries of the same cultivar are not permitted.** All entries must have been grown by



the exhibitor.

Persons placing entries in Section XI-Youth Exhibits must be 18 years of age or younger as of the date of the show.

All leaves entered should be representative of the plant as a whole and should be taken from plants approaching maturity.

### **Division II Container Grown Hosta Rules**

Container-grown hostas must have been grown by the exhibitor and must be established in the containers in which they are grown. **Only registered cultivars or hosta species may be exhibited in this division and only one hosta may be grown in each container.** Container and plant must be clean. The plant should be centered in the container. Inner containers or container liners are allowed but must not be visible. Only one type of ground cover material is allowed per exhibit. Ground covers may be any natural non-living material such as bark chips or stones, or an indigenous moss of one variety only.

### **Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect Rules**

Self-contained trough or container gardens of any size may be entered for judging as an arrangement.

Multiple varieties of hosta and other plant material may be used. **Hostas must be a strong focal point of the entry. No artificial plant material is allowed.** Plants and container must be clean. Accessories are permitted.

Individual plants need not be identified. However, if the exhibitor would like to identify the material, an identification ledger card to the side of the exhibit is acceptable.

### **Division IV – Educational Displays Rules**

Educational displays must pertain to Hosta.

### **Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits Rules**

Entries in this division are not judged. The exhibit may be a single cut leaf, a hosta bloom scape, a container grown plant, or any other display deemed to be of interest to the show observers. However, the plant material must be hosta predominant, the exhibit must be tastefully presented, and the material must be in good condition. The Show Chair may refuse placement of any exhibit that does not meet these requirements.

### **Division VI – Artistic Design Rules**

Hosta leaves must be the predominant foliage in the design. Some dried and/or treated plant materials and hosta blooms are permitted. No artificial flowers, fruit, or foliage may be used. Contrived flowers made from hosta leaves are permitted.

An exhibitor may enter one entry per class. Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor but the design work must be the work of the exhibitor.

Staging for all classes will be skirted tables that are 30” deep by 30” wide and covered with white tablecloths. Background is beige-colored walls. Overlays and accessories are permitted but should not exceed dimensions set in the class rules. The Artistic Design committee reserves the right to move an entry to improve spacing if the exhibitor is unavailable to do so.

Pre-registration is required. Exhibitors are requested to register their entries in advance with Cindy Tomashek, Design Chair. The Design Chair will provide additional class definitions, rules and requirements, and exhibition instructions upon registration.

In each class, the designer is asked to interpret the class title.

## **SHOW DIVISIONS**

### **DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE (Cufleaf)**

<b>Section I</b>	<b>Giant-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section II</b>	<b>Large-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section III</b>	<b>Medium-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section IV</b>	<b>Small-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section V</b>	<b>Miniature-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section VI</b>	<b>Giant-Leaved Unregistered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section VII</b>	<b>Large-Leaved Unregistered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section VIII</b>	<b>Medium-Leaved Unregistered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section IX</b>	<b>Small-Leaved Unregistered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section X</b>	<b>Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Cultivars and Species</b>
<b>Section XI</b>	<b>Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species</b> <b>Displayed in Alphabetical Order</b>
<b>Section XII</b>	<b>Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars</b> <b>Displayed in Alphabetical order</b>

Entries in Section I-X are to be displayed using the following Color Classes:

- Class 1 – Green (All Shades)**
- Class 2 – Blue (All Shades)**
- Class 3 – Yellow (All Shades)**
- Class 4 - White Margined**
  - Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center**
  - Green to Blue Center**
- Class 5 – Yellow Margined**
  - Yellow, White or Chartreuse Center**
  - Green to Blue Center**
- Class 6 – Green or Blue Margined**
  - Yellow White or Chartreuse Center**
  - Green to Blue Center (distinct from margin color)**
- Class 7 – Streaked or Mottled**
- Class 8 – Others (including early season variants)**

### **DIVISION II – TROUGH/CONTAINER GROWN HOSTA**

<b>Section I</b>	<b>Container Displays Not exceeding a Total Height or Width of 18 inches</b>
<b>Section II</b>	<b>Container Displays with Height or Width Greater than 18 inches</b>

### **DIVISION III – TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT**

<b>Section I</b>	<b>Concrete Composite</b>
<b>Section II</b>	<b>Ceramic, Terra Cotta, Bronze and Other Metals</b>
<b>Section III</b>	<b>Plastics and all man-made materials</b>
<b>Section IV</b>	<b>Natural Materials, Stone, Wood, Baskets, etc.</b>

### **DIVISION IV – EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS**

### **DIVISION V – NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS**

### **DIVISION VI – ARTISTIC DESIGN**

<b>Class I</b>	<b>Operation Hosta</b>
<b>Class II</b>	<b>A River Runs Through It</b>
<b>Class III</b>	<b>Bluff Country Beauty</b>
<b>Class IV</b>	<b>Heart in Hand</b>

**Pre-registration is required for exhibition in this division. Contact the Design Chair for additional class definitions and requirements, and exhibition instructions.**

## **SHOW AWARDS**

**Best of Show – Horticulture** – awarded to the best species or registered cultivar entry in Division I – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections I-V and Section XI. (Please note that entries in Section XII – Unregistered Named Cultivars not eligible to receive this award.) This award is a large triple streamer blue and white rosette ribbon and a prize.

**Best Seedling or Sport Award** – Awarded to the best seedling or sport entry in Division 1 – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections VI-X. This award is a large triple streamer green and white rosette ribbon and prize.

**Best Artistic Design Award** – Awarded to the best entry in Division VI – Artistic Design. This award is chosen from the Best of Class winners in the division. The award is a large triple streamer blue and white rosette ribbon and prize.

**Sweepstakes Award** – Awarded to the exhibitor who wins the largest number of blue ribbons in Division I – Horticulture. **(In case of a tie, count Best of Class, then Best of Section ribbons if necessary to break the tie.)**

**Grand Awards** – Awarded to the best entries in Division II – Container Grown Hosta, Division III – Trough/ Container Gardens Arranged for Effect, Division IV – Educational Displays, and Division VI – Artistic Design. In order to win, entries must have scored 95 points. For Divisions II and III, Grand Awards will be chosen from the Section Award winners. These awards are medium triple streamer purple rosette ribbons and prizes.

**Section Awards** – Awarded to the Best of Section winners in divisions containing sections. All section award winners must have scored at least 95 points. These awards are medium single streamer purple ribbons.

**Class Awards** – Awarded to Best of Class winners in divisions containing classes. All class award winners must have scored at least 95 points. These awards are single streamer ribbons.

The following ribbon awards are awarded in accordance with rules set forth by AHS:

**First Place Blue Ribbons** – Entries must score 90 or more points to receive this award.

**Second Place Red Ribbons** – Entries must score 85 or more points to receive this award.

**Third Place Yellow Ribbons** - Entries must score 80 or more points to receive this award.

**Fourth Place White Ribbons** – Entries must score 75 or more points to receive this award.

**REGISTERED CULTIVARS AND SPECIES  
DIVISION I, SECTIONS I-V AND SECTION XI**

Form	15
Size	15
Color and Pattern	25
Texture	15
Substance	15
Condition and Grooming	15
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**UNREGISTERED NAMED HOSTA CULTIVARS  
DIVISION I, SECTION XII**

Form	15
Size	15
Color and Pattern	25
Texture	15
Substance	15
Condition and Grooming	15
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**UNREGISTERED SEEDLINGS AND SPORTS  
DIVISION I, SECTIONS VI-X**

Distinction	50
Form and Size	10
Color and Pattern	10
Texture	10
Substance	10
Condition and Grooming	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**CONTAINER GROWN HOSTA  
DIVISION II**

Form	15
Size	15
Color and Pattern	25
Substance	10
Condition and Grooming	15
Container	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**THROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS  
ARRANGED FOR EFFECT – DIVISION III**

Variety	20
Condition	30
Arrangement	30
Container Relative to Arrangement	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS  
DIVISION IV**

Educational Value	50
Theme, Originality, Materials Used	
Staging	50
Arrangement, Attractiveness, Neatness	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

**NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS  
DIVISION V**

Not Judged – No Scale of Points

**ARTISTIC DESIGN  
DIVISION VI**

Corformance	20
Design	42
Artistic Concept	12
Expression	10
Distinction	16
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

## 2012 MRHS Convention Vendors

### **GREEN HILL FARM, INC.**

Bob & Nancy Solberg  
PO Box 773  
Franklinton, NC 27525  
919-309-0649  
e-mail: [hostabob@gmail.com](mailto:hostabob@gmail.com)  
website: <http://www.hostahosta.com>

### **JACK'S PLANTS**

Jack Barta  
W59 N910 Sheboygan Rd  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
262-375-0617  
e-mail: [JBarta@wi.rr.com](mailto:JBarta@wi.rr.com)

### **MADE IN THE SHADE GARDENS**

Rob Mortko  
16370 W. 138th Terr.  
Olathe, KS 66062  
913-829-0760  
e-mail: [Rob@HostaGuy.com](mailto:Rob@HostaGuy.com)  
website: <http://www.hostaguy.com>

### **NAYLOR CREEK NURSERY**

Gary Lindheimer  
2610 W. Valley Rd.  
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360-732-4983  
e-mail: [naylorck@olypen.com](mailto:naylorck@olypen.com)  
website: <http://www.naylorcreek.com>

### **SILVERS-ELBERT NURSERY**

Bill Silvers  
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Cisco, GA 30094  
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e-mail: [kjelbert@earthlink.net](mailto:kjelbert@earthlink.net)  
website: <http://www.hostaplants.com>

### **IN THE COUNTRY GARDEN & GIFTS**

Josh & Sue Spece  
2392 240th St.  
Independence, IA 50644  
319-334-6593  
e-mail: [josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com](mailto:josh@inthecountrygardenandgifts.com)  
website: <http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com>

## **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board Meeting January 21, 2012**

Present: President Glenn Herold, Lou Horton, Irwin Johnson, Mary Ann Metz, Barb Schroeder, and Sally Stewart

Absent [excused]: Floyd Rogers

Glenn called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

Barb reported our membership is 490; past experience indicates that some will not renew. We will seek to identify more members to whom we can e-mail our newsletters. Much money will be saved if we use e-mail rather than postage.

Barb gave a detailed financial report. We are in compliance with IRS regulations. Barb suggested we add a board position: Membership, in which Kristine James has volunteered to serve; Barb would like to continue as Treasurer. Moved by Sally, seconded by Mary Ann to make that change, passed unanimously. Moved by Irwin, seconded by Lou to accept the financial report.

We discussed our past financial support of the study of Hosta Virus X by Prof. Lockhart and Ms. Anderson at the University of Minnesota. The subject was tabled to the July convention in Rochester, July 12-14.

Lou led a discussion of a possible 2013 Regional convention. Mary Ann volunteered to be Show Chair that year, and all other board members were enthusiastic about that convention possibility. Our 2014 convention will be in Green Bay.

The Board members were unanimous in their choice of a winner for the De Etta Montgomery Award this year. The award will be presented in July at Rochester.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted by Irwin Johnson, Secretary

## 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. Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. Joining AHS will enable you to attend our national conventions.

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>

**Advertise in the  
*Hosta Leaves***

<b>Full Color Ads:</b>			
<b>Size</b>	<b>Single Issue</b>	<b>Full Year</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
Full page	\$275	\$475	6½" x 9½"
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1/8 page	30	50	3⅛" x 2"

Contact Floyd Rogers for publishing deadlines and more details. (630) 858-3538 or [mrhs.editor@midwesthostasociety.org](mailto:mrhs.editor@midwesthostasociety.org)

# Wanted

**Host Societies for future 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.**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY**  
**SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER**

**Kristine James**  
**523 E. Calhoun Street**  
**Woodstock, IL 60098**  
**[mrhs.hosta@gmail](mailto:mrhs.hosta@gmail.com)**

**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 Schaumburg, Illinois. To join, or renew membership, please send a check for \$20 (ten dollars per year) to Kristine James. This summer's convention will be held in Rochester, Minnesota, Green Bay in 2014, and TBA in 2013. 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; a buffet dinner; and lots of hospitality and fellowship!