

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 73

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WSM REGISTRATION; ROCHESTER IN REVIEW

LISLE, ILLINOIS CONVENTION



**President**

Glenn Herold  
W69N984 Washington Ave.  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
Glenn.herold50@gmail.com

**Editor**

Floyd Rogers  
22W213 Glen Valley Dr.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
fmrogers@ix.netcom.com

**Vice-President**

Mary Ann Metz  
1108 W. William St.  
Champaign, IL 61821  
heyblondy@earthlink.net

**Secretary**

Irwin Johnson  
13685 Watertown Plank Rd.  
Elm Grove, WI 53122  
irwinjohnson@wi.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Barb Schroeder  
1819 Coventry Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61822  
barbschro1@gmail.com

**Membership**

Kristine James  
523 E. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
mrhs.hosta@gmail.com

## President's Message

WOW! If you were at the annual MRHS convention in July, no doubt you are still saying "wows" when you think about your time in Rochester, MN. The gardens were great, the hospitality fantastic, the accommodations delightful, the auction mindboggling, and..... I'm running out of superlative adjectives! At the risk of leaving someone out, on behalf of the MRHS I would like to thank:

Convention Co-chairs Cindy Tomashek and June Stoehr  
The planning committee and the many volunteers from the Shades of Green Hosta Society  
The vendors who helped to quench our hosta thirst  
The garden hosts who had their hostas well labeled and in great condition, despite the weather  
The staff and chefs of the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center  
Those who brought and bought plants for our record breaking auction  
The auctioneers who kept things moving and made us dig deep into our pockets (without a feeling of guilt!)  
Anyone else who attended the convention and was not included in the above

I'm sure Cindy and June would agree that it was a lot of work, but worth the effort because of the satisfying results. You, too, can join in on the fun by helping your local club host a future convention. We're covered for the next couple of years (Lisle, IL in 2013 and Green Bay, WI in 2014) but need hosts for 2015 and following. Contact me if you are interested. You won't regret it.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the rains have come and refreshed your hostas and other plants. Plan now to attend the Winter Scientific Meeting in Lisle, IL in January to learn from the expert speakers and attendees. And a short time after that it will be back in Lisle for another round of Hosta Mania!

The facebook page for the Midwest Regional Hosta Society is gradually adding new friends. If you would like to get in on the fun, here is the link: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/111529828955070/> Feel free to add comments, pictures, ask questions, or post anything else related to hostas. I'd love to see a photo album of your garden!

*Glenn Herold*

## Wanted

**Host Society for the 2015 MRHS Convention. If your local group has never or not recently hosted a convention, please consider doing your part by hosting this one.**

## DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award

The De Etta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a member that has given many years of service to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. The award was established in 2007 in honor of DeEtta Montgomery, who was an enthusiastic supporter of hostas and the MRHS and other hosta societies. The 2008 winner was Roger Koopmans, who served as President of the society. The 2009 winner was Floyd Rogers, our current “Hosta Leaves” editor. 2010 winners were Fred and Audra Wilson who have been so generous and supportive of the society. Audra has also served as our Secretary. In 2011 former newsletter editor Irwin Johnson won the award.

The 2012 award winner is a deserving member of the MRHS who has given many years of service to the society in various capacities. This year’s recipient is Tom Micheletti. Tom has been a member of the MRHS since 1991, served for four years as its Treasurer, and then served for four years as President. Following the illness of De Etta during her first term as President, Tom was asked by the board to fill out the remaining year and a half of her term. Tom also chaired the Winter Scientific Meeting for 16 years, organizing the event and arranging for speakers. He was instrumental in starting the seed auction to help defray costs of the event. Tom has also chaired two MRHS conventions held in the Chicago area and is currently involved with the 2013 convention as well.

Any member of the society may nominate a member for this distinguished award. Just contact any board member with your nomination. The board meets at the Winter Scientific Meeting in January to decide on the winner for that year. The award winner is announced at the regional convention.

Thank you Tom, and all past winners, for your service and continued support of the MRHS.



Glenn Herold presenting to Tom Micheletti

## MRHS Convention 2013

The Northern Illinois Hosta Society invites you to go to your calendar right now and reserve July 11 – 13, 2013, for next year's MRHS Convention "Hostamania!" in suburban Chicago. You might even want to come early and stay afterward, because three days of immersing yourself in hostas won't leave enough time to visit the area's attractions.



But you're probably interested mainly in the hostas, so let's talk first about what MRHS 2013 will have for you. At press time it looks like at least 10 vendors will be here, and 10 outstanding gardens will be on the tour. Of course there will be an auction and a leaf show. Seminars and side trips are in the planning stage; one of the latter takes advantage of the wealth of public gardens near the convention site. An optional tour of the Ball Seed Company's fabulous test and exhibit gardens, which are open free to the public only by appointment, is already on the books for those who might want a break from Hostamania!

Morton Arboretum is just five minutes from the convention hotel, and beautiful Cantigny Gardens is ten. Both are easily accessible to convention attendees who might want to visit them on their own. The Chicago Botanic Garden is farther, but its amazing displays are well worth a visit. All three provide complimentary admission to members of other American Horticultural Society gardens/arboretums, so be sure to bring your membership card from the one you belong to in your area. You can spend the money you save on admissions at excellent nurseries in the area; two of the best are within minutes of the hotel, and we're working on getting discount certificates for you.

Whether you come just for the convention or for an extended visit, you can make the convention hotel—the Lisle/Naperville Hilton—your base. It's located just off I-88 in Lisle, 25 miles west of downtown Chicago with easy access to the city via I-88 and the Eisenhower Freeway by car, or by commuter train from either Lisle or Naperville. The Hilton is giving a great room rate of \$96 per night for the convention. Add the free breakfast for hotel guests at Algauer's Restaurant, the swimming pool, workout room, free parking—you can hardly afford not to come!



More details about Hostamania! will be in the next issue of this newsletter, but check

[www.MRHS2013.org](http://www.MRHS2013.org)

from time to time for updates. NIHS looks forward to welcoming all you Hostamaniacs next July!

**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget Recommendations for 2013**

**ALL ACCOUNTS**

**Approved July 14, 2012**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
Convention	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Income-Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	<u>\$1,660.00</u>	<u>\$1,660.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Subtotal	\$7,660.00	\$7,660.00	\$0.00
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Grants	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Internet Site	-\$225.00	-\$225.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	-\$360.00	-\$300.00	\$60.00
Newsletter	-\$7,000.00	-\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00
Winter Scientific	<u>-\$4,450.00</u>	<u>-\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,450.00</u>
Subtotal	(\$13,035.00)	(\$7,525.00)	\$5,510.00
<b>Totals</b>	<u>(\$5,375.00)</u>	<u>\$135.00</u>	<u>(\$5,510.00)</u>
<b>Current Net Worth:</b>	<u>\$31,507.83</u>		

**Additional Note:**

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

**To all MRHS members:**

We reported at the 2012 convention in Rochester, MN that our budget for next year will be a balanced budget for the first time in several years. That is due to the fact that we have gone to emailing the newsletter. If you are receiving this newsletter through the mail you can help the society even more by sending your email address to [MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com](mailto:MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com). So far we have saved \$4000 per year by sending the newsletter to two-thirds of our membership. The one-third that have not shared your email with us please join the savings program by sending us your email today.

In the future we hope to send emails to our members about conventions, winter scientific and other news items before the newsletters come out. The emails are our way of better staying in touch with you.

Thank you for being a valued member. Barbara Schroeder, Treasurer

# The Species Story

by Jim King

It is natural, I suppose, that some of us wonder what will become of our hosta collection when the time comes to move to a townhouse or senior residence. I certainly wondered about my collection. When I say *my*, I don't mean the hundreds of hostas in the garden my wife and I have created together. Mine is a collection within that collection. And the particular reason for thinking about its future is its unusualness. You see, I like the species hostas. And not a lot of us share that enthusiasm.

I offer no apology for fancying the species. These are the pure hostas, free from the mutations that sometimes affect prettier hostas with weaknesses. They are strong performers (even in drought conditions), with sharp and very interesting differences among them. And we are told all the hosta varieties originate in the species hostas. True, they don't have cutsey names, but then again, who wouldn't enjoy displaying a hosta called *H. aequinoctiiantha* or, as the smallest of all is named, *H. pulchella*.

Regarding the future, I concluded that my collection should go to a botanical garden which would agree to show the species hostas all together in one site. I had no reason to think either of the large gardens in the Chicago area would be interested.

I consulted Tom Micheletti for his ideas on how I could find a cooperating botanical establishment. At the Madison MRHS convention he told me that the Missouri Botanical Garden had recently been designated an AHS Display Garden and he then introduced me to Arnie Hempel who said he thought that the St. Louis Hosta Society folks might very well be happy to work with the MBG to create the sort of site I had in mind. My wife and I love the MBG and this prospect sounded wonderful, so I contacted Phyllis Weidman, the volunteer curator of their hosta collection, who is a get-things-done kind of person, and within a week we had an agreement. I would deliver my hostas in September or October.

The collection consisted of nearly thirty out of the forty-three species that I had been gathering for years. Some were mature, others coming along. I had been viewing the collection as pretty numerous, but the thought of a public garden devoted to the hosta species made me pay more attention to the missing ones. So over the summer months I set about trying to fill the remaining gaps. I called Bob Kuk, from whom I had obtained some very nice plants over the years, but Bob said the deer had gotten everything I wanted to order. Turning to *The Hosta Finder*, I contacted two suppliers, one I knew, the other new to me. I placed my orders, potted up (all that was available were small divisions) and had three months to watch them grow. In time most of the new plants looked good enough to add to the set to go to St. Louis.

Phyllis in the meantime had surveyed the MBG collection and identified the species they already owned. It turned out a fair number of mine were already represented. That was OK with me, for I was so enjoying donating that I had already begun to think about rebuilding my collection for still another botanic garden, if I could find one such. (I guess the collecting habit is hard to abandon.)

Given that St. Louis is one agricultural zone warmer than we are, the delivery was set up for a



loading up



moving into the Missouri Botanical Garden

congratulated on being elected President of the St. Louis Hosta Society. We feel that club is very lucky to have her at its head.

time in October. The date arrived, we packed the car and headed out. Just as the MBG's closing hour approached we off-loaded onto carts and wheeled the hostas into the greenhouse. It was a delight to meet Phyllis, whom we



two new hosta society presidents

Since then Phyllis has been busy. The area dedicated to the species has been planted and she has succeeded in filling all but six of the gaps from the original list. I can't wait to get to St. Louis to see the AHS Display Garden!

Note: In accepting the number forty-three when I began collecting species hostas I was using the list in Zilis (2000), who followed Schmid's magisterial work on the genus (1991). Readers who consult the AHS *Tan Book* know that today a rather greater number of species is listed.

Happily, in settling on the old number, things were easier for me that they will be for younger hosta enthusiasts just getting started collecting the species.



species garden at Mobot

# The Hosta Gardening Calendar

by Bob Solberg,

## Winter (Period of dormancy): December-January-February-March

In winter, hostas are dormant; they do not grow at all. There is no winter root growth as in other perennials. They need 600-700 hours below 40 degrees F of cold dormancy but they will emerge as stronger plants if their dormancy is extended beyond the minimum required.

Labeling: Make new permanent labels.

Light: Full sun, under deciduous trees, but very weak intensity.

Nutrients: None needed

Pests: Check for fresh vole runs, especially after the snow melts. Bait runs or set traps as necessary.

Protection: If the garden was not mulched in fall, this is an easy time to touch up that 1" layer of coarse mulch.

Propagation: None.

Water: Usually no extra watering is needed. In very dry winters, especially in areas that usually do not have snow, watering once or twice throughout the winter may be needed or emergence of the foliage may be delayed and the plants will be smaller.

Fun! Surf the Internet for hosta information. Make "want lists" of new hostas from hosta catalogues received in the mail and on your favorite websites, like [www.HostaHosta.com](http://www.HostaHosta.com). Many nurseries have "Early Bird" specials in January. Catch up on reading *The Hosta Journal*. Visit [www.Hosta.org](http://www.Hosta.org).

## Spring (Foliage emergence begins): March-April-early May

As the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves to emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to effect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

Labeling: Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

Light: Full sun, moderate intensity. Usually no shading necessary.

Nutrients: Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

Pests: Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

Protection: Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. Last

chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

**Propagation:** Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system. New roots will not begin forming until the first set of new leaves are almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic division for late summer.

**Water:** Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water; make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly; do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

**Fun!** This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag your neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act. This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world. Go to a local hosta meeting.

### **Late Spring (Period of rapid foliage and root growth): May-June**

Most hostas, except the fragrant flowered ones which produce new flushes of leaves into July, produce all their leaves in about 6-8 weeks. This occurs in usually one or two flushes of 3-4 leaves per shoot, (division). These leaves are at first “soft”, expanding rapidly, metabolizing, (growing) at a high rate. As they reach their mature size they “harden off” and stop expanding, slowing their production of white wax and purple pigments, (anthocyanins). At this time fresh new white roots emerge from the shoot above last year’s roots and lengthen rapidly. Soon the second flush of 3-4 leaves will appear and mature, followed by another period of root initiation. Hostas need abundant water and nutrients, especially nitrogen, during this period of rapid leaf and root growth.

**Labeling:** Pull labels further out from under the expanding hosta clumps. Notice how much bigger your hostas are than they were last year. Congratulate yourself and give your hostas praise.

**Light:** Shade fills the garden as the trees leaf out. Watch for bleaching of early rising yellow hostas. They may need to be moved.

**Nutrients:** Reapply 10-10-10 after 4-6 weeks depending on the amount of heavy rainfall. Continue your liquid feed program. If you want your hostas to be the biggest on your block, (and who doesn’t?), supplement granular fertilizers with a foliar liquid feed of a high nitrogen fertilizer with added magnesium every two weeks (e.g. Miracle-Gro Tomato Plant Food 18-18-21, Peters 20-20-20 with a pinch of Epsom salts per gallon of water added.)

**Pests:** Check hostas for evidence of Hosta Virus X. Unlike foliar nematodes, HVX symptoms will show early in the growing season. Remove and dispose of any infected plants!!! Watch for slug and vole damage. If a hosta does not come up, go digging around looking for it. It may have become vole food, so check the hostas around it for vole damage

by pulling gently on the foliage and seeing if they are firmly rooted in the ground. If they too have been nibbled, you may need to pot them up and regrow their roots. Bait or set traps. If a hosta comes up much smaller than last year, it may have become a victim of tree roots and need to be potted also. Remove all the rotted roots and soft parts of the crown and rinse it in a 10% bleach solution before potting. Make a note, that hosta bed may need reworking in late summer. Ugh!

Protection: Deter deer!

Propagation: Do not divide hostas with soft foliage. Once they hardens off, you can move entire clumps safely, being careful not to damage the roots. Use a digging fork, not a shovel if you can so you do not cut off the root tips. Wait until late summer to divide drastically.

Water: Water, Water, Water! Especially if it is a dry spring. Fill your hostas to the brim with water.

Fun! Plant those hostas that you ordered in the winter. Happiness is a new hosta bed! Visit local nurseries and raid the big box stores; hunt for bargains and maybe do a little hosta sport fishing with your hosta buddy. Take pride in your perfect hostas, all fresh and free from holes. Show them off. Visit them daily and choose your favorites.

### **Summer (Period of bloom and seed set) June-July-August**

The time of bloom in hosta species and their cultivars varies from late May or June to September. A particular hosta will normally bloom once for about 3 weeks during the summer, producing a flower scape from the growing bud that just finished producing the flushes of leaves. The scape has a number of lily-like flowers that are open for one day only and are bee pollinated. (*H. plantaginea* opens in the evening and may be moth pollinated.) Seed pods are formed from fertilized ovaries at the base of the pistil and swell in size. Black, single-winged seeds are usually ripe in 6-8 weeks.

Labeling: Replace the labels that the squirrels have pulled up.

Light: This is the brightest and more importantly, hottest light of the year. The sun is at its maximum height in the sky and often beds that were bathed in shade in early May are now in full sun. Hostas can tolerate direct light but they hate heat! If leaf margins begin to brown, it may be time to move that hosta to a cooler spot in the garden. On the other hand, year by year shade gardens become shadier. Consider removing a branch here or there during the summer to create spotlights of bright light in the garden. Maybe even consider removing an entire tree, but that should probably wait until winter.

Nutrients: Blooming hostas still need nutrients to maintain their foliage and produce seeds but not a high nitrogen diet. If you are liquid feeding weekly, continue if there is ample rain. In times of drought reduce feeding to every other week. Discontinue any supplemental foliar feeding; hosta leaves have expanded to their maximum by now. Remember if it doesn't rain, then your slow release fertilizer is not being released. Irrigation may be a good idea.

Pests: If it turns dry, the deer will show up looking for some lush hosta foliage full of water. Spray deer repellent every 3 weeks or more often and rotate your favorite brands. Leave the electric fence on at all times. Be on the look out for the symptoms of foliar nematodes, those nasty brown streaks. If you have a major problem, remove the most highly

infected hostas and water less and feed less. Starve the hostas and stress the worms. Quarantine your garden. If you have a minor issue, remove infected hostas and all the ones touching them. A few years of this may eliminate the problem almost completely.

**Protection:** Watch for petiole rot. This fungus attacks the base of hosta petioles, secreting a substance that eats through the plant tissue causing the leaves to fall on the ground. This usually occurs in the first hot dry weather of the summer. Pull back mulch. Treat with 10% bleach solution immediately and retreat if necessary. There are also fungicides (e.g. Terrachlor) that can be applied. Other fungi may attack the hosta leaves, especially in hot, humid climates in wet summers. Apply fungicides (e.g. Daconil) as a preventative in late June every 2 weeks as necessary. Rotate fungicides.

**Propagation:** Divide hostas as the heat of summer passes. August is the best time to drastically divide and plant or pot hostas. Try to give your hostas 6 weeks before the first frost to establish new roots in their new home.

**Water:** Like nutrients, a hosta's demands for water are reduced after their leaves are mature. Increased temperatures however, increase the transpiration rate, the rate at which the water is pulled out of the hosta leaves, requiring more water to replace it. Transpiration affects trees to an even greater degree as they pump water up and out of the garden soil. In hot weather sometimes keeping your hostas full of water all day long is a constant battle. Continue the fight. Dry soil may cause your hostas to go heat dormant or worse, dry rot at the bottom of the crown. In heavily shaded gardens, irrigation during the day can cool those hot leaves.

**Fun!** Cut some scapes after a couple of flowers have opened and bring them inside to enjoy for two or more weeks. Cut and remove the other scapes when 75% of the flowers have opened, unless you wish to save the seeds. Take in a hosta convention, regional events are inexpensive and allow plenty of time to socialize. Visit other local gardens and get some new ideas. Remember to bring a hosta along as a gift. Begin to plant new acquisitions.

### **Late Summer (Growth of buds for next year) late-August-September**

With the full extension of the flowering inflorescence, the growing tip, (meristem), of the hosta shoot is carried high into the air, at the end of the scape. New "dormant" buds now begin to form at the base of the scape, that will go through cold dormancy and produce the new shoots and leaves of the plant in the next spring. Ideally, three buds are formed, but frequently less are formed by large hosta cultivars. In some early flowering hostas, these buds may produce a second growth of new shoots, leaves, flower scapes and more dormant buds the same summer, especially if they are grown in areas where the growing season is long, as in the Southeastern United States.

**Labeling:** Place plant labels, temporary or permanent, with each new hosta. Bury a plastic label with the plant name in pencil in the same position for each hosta. Map garden if you are so inclined.

**Light:** Days begin to shorten, hostas begin to look tired.

**Nutrients:** Fertilize newly planted hostas with 10-10-10 or a little slow release fertilizer. If some hostas make a few new leaves then liquid feed once in August.

**Pests:** Check for voles moving into the garden. Check for foliar nematodes, again. Check the oldest leaves. If the deer still want your hostas, then at some point, open the gate and let them clean up the garden for you.

**Protection:** Mulch newly worked areas.

**Propagation:** Continue to divide hostas. Try to get them finished six weeks before the first frost. You can do it later but remember hostas do not grow roots over the winter.

**Water:** Turn off the irrigation and put the hoses away. Lack of water will encourage dormancy. Of course, continue to water your new plantings. I use a watering can.

**Fun!** Look for fall specials from your favorite hosta nurseries. Hostas planted in the fall will look a year older than the ones you buy next spring. Continue to plant new acquisitions. Start collecting seeds from early flowering hostas.

### **Fall (Maturation of seeds and onset of dormancy) late September-October-November**

As the days shorten toward winter, hostas prepare for dormancy. As the chloroplasts begin to break down and the bright yellows of hidden pigments, caroteins and xanthophylls, begin to appear, green hosta leaves turn to gold. The leaves then begin to dry and petioles weaken and droop. The dry air helps the ripe seed pods to spring open, allowing the seeds to fly away on the wind. Usually it takes two or three hard freezes to knock the shriveled hosta foliage to the ground, while the flower scapes will persist intact through the first snows of winter.

**Labeling:** Make sure every hosta has a label before it becomes unidentifiable. The ones in pots probably need a new label as well. They tend to fade over the winter.

**Light:** The leaves are falling and the light continues to fade never the less. The days shorten inducing dormancy.

**Nutrients:** None needed.

**Pests:** Only the voles are a problem now. Begin to bait and trap again.

**Protection:** Remove tree leaves from the garden to discourage the voles from moving in. I use a leaf blower and not a rake. Finish cutting flower scapes. Apply mulch to your new plantings and touch up as needed.

**Propagation:** Hurry up! It is almost too late.

**Water:** Make sure your hostas are full of water the night before the first hard freeze. Usually rain comes with the first real cold front of the season, but if the fall has been dry you might need to soak the garden one more time before you lock the pump house for the winter.

**Fun!** Collect a few seeds and plant them right away. They will be up in 2-3 weeks and you will have a few hostas to play with all winter. Cheer up. I know your hostas look terrible now, tired from another full turn of their life cycle. This last sad memory of them as they retire for the year, I believe, just makes them look that much more perfect when they emerge with their fresh leaves next spring. Take a break, you have earned it!

# Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board Meeting

Friday, July 13, 2012, 4:00pm

- I. Call to order  
In attendance: Barb, Sally, Floyd, Mary Ann, Lou, Glenn
- II. Treasurer's report  
Estimated that 2012 will end up with a surplus of \$2116 due to newsletter being sent by email.
- III. Budget Approval  
Balanced budget passed for 2013  
Will need to address net worth in the future.
- IV. IRS update  
Barb submitting papers to get tax exempt status.  
Will take this to post office to get non-profit status to save on mailing expenses.
- V. Newsletter
- W.
- VI. Future Conventions Progress reports  
2013 - Chicago  
2014 - Green Bay
- VIII. Discussion on Rotary Gardens request for grant  
  
Rotary has received grant in the past.  
Request turned down.
- IX. Other  
"No bus" for future meetings - Suggested that there be a seminar before attendees are sent out to gardens. Also that there be a number that attendees can call for directions.  
Improving the Web site - Not getting many hits.  
Suggested that past newsletters be put on website. Also link to AHS articles.  
Recommendation that "midwest preview" be brought back to the hosta show.

Adjourn: Lou moved, Barb seconded

**The following is the first of the write-ups from our 2012 convention in Rochester. Many thanks to the authors. Enjoy.**

## **THE LONG ROAD TO ROCHESTER**

by Holly and Jim O'Donnell

*Editor's Note: Holly and Jim attended their first convention and were kind enough to share their thoughts.*

When visiting relatives in Ohio the weekend before the Operation Hosta Convention, my husband and I happened to mention to them that we were heading to Minnesota the following week for a hosta convention. At first the response was a pronounced silence. My sister-in-law mentioned that my green toe nail polish would correspond nicely to the occasion and that she would have to add “hosta people” to her list of subcultures that exist in the United States. I did not want to mention that we actually exist throughout the world for fear that would start another conversation about “different strokes for different folks” – of course, the different ones were Jim and I. We don't watch reality shows and we're not Ohio State University Buckeye football fans. (Horrors! I'm sorry. I meant to say **The** Ohio State University.) We topped off our visit to Ohio on Monday with a trip to Wade and Gatton Nursery in Bellville. Of course, we had to re-arrange our luggage to fit in the hostas we purchased and returned home to Illinois with not only new hostas but a recipe for hosta dip. Tuesday was spent saturating the garden and giving strict watering instructions to our neighbors who, although they are exemplary neighbors and thoroughly trustworthy, could not tell a *H. 'Paradigm'* from a *H. 'Parhelion'*. Nor would they care to.

Our goal was to leave for the convention by 10 am on Wednesday. At 11 am I was throwing up in the driveway. The question was never if we should cancel our plans to attend the convention but whether I should start out driving as we first had planned. No, I didn't drive. Poor Jim drove all the way to Minnesota while I shivered under a wool blanket and kept a garbage bag in my lap “just in case.” By the time we registered at the convention on Thursday I was feeling much better and was happy to receive the gift hosta ‘Candy Kisses’. I have to mention here that the gift hostas were situated in a baby crib and the pot was covered in a makeshift diaper. Yes, it freaked me out a little and I did just for a moment wonder what the heck I was doing here -- or what the hostas were doing in a crib -- but I assured the registration workers that it was a very cute idea. Later in the afternoon we boarded a bus for Preston, MN where we were to have a picnic supper at Camp Creek Farm and tour the garden of Cindy and Mike Tomashek. While traveling down the ½ mile driveway which winds up and down and all around in an oversized bus, one of our fellow hosta lovers cried out (in vain) to the bus driver: “Let us out and we'll walk!!” My husband calmly commented that there was a bus ahead of us and we didn't see that it had fallen down any of the bluffs so it must have made it. That made us feel so much better. Needless to say we made it to the picnic where we enjoyed great BBQ and much needed alcoholic beverages. We toured the hosta and perennial gardens and learned that this beautiful site will be the Tomashek's retirement home.

Friday morning found us getting up a bit earlier and attending the Judges Clinic. Since this was

our first hosta convention neither Jim nor I had ever attended a hosta leaf show. We were definitely a blank slate as far as knowing any of the criteria for leaf judging. The instructors, Mary Ann Metz and Barb Schroeder, were chock full of knowledge and experience which they patiently shared with us newbies. There were a few veteran judges sitting in the class and they, too, shared some of their expertise and judging experiences as well as leaf showing tips. It was our intent to take this class for our own edification and not to pursue “judging” any further. However, we enjoyed the clinic and learned so much that after some discussion we decided that we will do some clerking and show some hosta leaves at future events. Who knows, maybe we’ll even sign up for the next judges clinic!

There were several educational seminars scheduled for the afternoon and we decided to attend two of them. We missed the first one on tissue culture due to a lunch at a nearby Indian restaurant. Sorry, Mr. Mortko!

Don Dean’s “My Path to Hosta Gardening” presentation hit home with us as we remembered how our gardening began in our first yard of clay soil and full sun and evolved to our present yard which has sandy soil and shade. We had no choice but to adapt and become hosta lovers! His slide show and commentary gave us many ideas for future hosta purchases. (I took a lot of notes!)

Next, we learned from Bob Solberg’s “Growing Hostas: The Bigger the Better” about the fertilizers to use on hostas and at what times to use them throughout the growing season in order to allow the hostas to be the best that they can be. Foliar feed with MiracleGro Tomato Food? This we have to try! Another slide show and more hostas to add to the wish list.

After the dinner buffet came the auction. We had looked over the hostas at the preview and came up with a list of the ones we were interested in bidding on. Out of eight possibilities we won our first and only hosta, ‘Christmas Tree Gala’. The others went for a little more than our budget would allow but it was fun watching the bidding wars. Day 2 was over.

Saturday was tour day. At 8 am the attendees boarded 4 busses and toured 5 gardens. Each garden was different in its type of design and hardscaping use. The “oohs”, “aahs”, and clicking of cameras were familiar sounds throughout the day. We saw ponds and waterfalls, woods, boulders, all kinds of nooks and crannies, dry runs, native plants, goats, and even a grotto. And hostas, hostas, hostas! Formal gardens to anything-goes gardens – hosta lovers run the gambit. There was definitely something for everyone. The wish list got longer.

After dinner we enjoyed the witty Don Engebretson who delivered the program entitled “Really Cool Plants for Shady Spaces!” Not only were perennials, trees, and shrubs discussed but landscape design as well. More note taking and additions to the wish list were made.

Tomorrow we will return home once again with a car full of hostas even though we already have a patio layered with hostas that have yet to find a home in our garden. Hostaholics?? Can’t wait until next year’s convention!

## A visit to Camp Creek Farm

by Rick and Barb Schroeder

Thursday night before the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention starts is usually a night when early attendees try to find something to do. In 2009 the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society invited early attendees to an evening event at one of the member's gardens and the Shades of Green Hosta Society followed up with an outstanding event at the farm home of Cindy and Mike Tomashek.

Our evening started when four busses loaded up attendees at the hotel and headed south to the Camp Creek Farm located near Preston, MN. As our bus turned off the highway into a one lane road there was some concern on the part of the passengers on the right side of the bus as we looked down the drop-off to the bottom of the hill. But our outstanding driver kept us on the road and then up the next hill to the home and our evening event.



The farmhouse, built around 1910, sits on top of a hill on the 110 acre farm. Just below the house sits the post and beam barn that has been renovated over the last six years into a living space area of four floors. As the bus parked, Mike and Cindy greeted the guests and directed us to the serving line for an outstanding barbeque dinner. There were eating areas in the lower level, in the second floor bar and lounge area, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor sleeping area, and on the elevated deck overlooking the valley. Only the house and barn remain of the many outbuildings that were on the property

Some twelve years ago when their home of 20 years was slated for eminent domain Cindy began moving her hosta collection and garden to the farm. This garden lies around the house on the hill in various raised beds. Some of the plants are marked but many have had their tags removed by small critters. There are several large trees around the home and these protect the hosta and shade plant collection. The hillside that faces the barn features sun perennials to add color to the landscape.



Next year their daughter will be getting married at the farm and our event was the “advance” event to prepare for the wedding. We must say that Cindy and Mike, along with all of the soci-

ety members that helped, put on a great Thursday night event – one that will be hard to follow in future meetings.



## Baked Hosta Dip

from Holly O'Donnell

- 1 C chopped onion
- 1 TB vegetable oil
- 1 C chunky salsa, drained
- 2 C chopped hosta leaves
- 2 1/2 C shredded Monterey Jack Cheese
- 8 oz cream cheese, cubed
- 1/2 C light cream
- 1/4 C chopped black olives

Saute onion in oil over medium heat until tender. Add salsa and hosta leaves to the skillet. Cook two minutes. Pour mixture into a 1 1/2 qt baking dish. Stir in two cups Monterey Jack cheese, cream cheese, cream, and olives. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Stir, cover with foil and continue baking for 15 minutes longer. Take from oven, remove foil and sprinkle with remaining shredded cheese. Serve warm.

*(Recipe picked up at Wade and Gatton. I was under the impression that a customer gave it to one of the office help. When asked what kind of hosta to use the answer was "a tender one.")*

## The Jeanne and Horst Truestedt Garden

As we stepped off the bus, we were welcomed into the Truestedt garden by Jeanne and Horst. This was only our second garden of the day so we were anxious to tour the garden.



The Truestedts acquired their one-acre plus property in 1975. The garden is situated atop a hill that was originally covered with ancient oaks, huge elms and lush timber. Eventually Dutch Elm Disease and a few windstorms changed the landscape and the garden became a priority.

At first glance, I knew it would be one of those gardens that keep you looking to see what you will find around the next corner or just what will be hiding near one of their fabulous rocks. I wanted to be sure to find all of the great pieces of iron sculpture that were placed throughout the garden, either perched atop a stump or boulder or tucked into a planting bed. I especially liked the big old toad in the backyard.



In talking to our host, she shared her love for all of the large boulders that were the fortunate result of the excavation for their new sewer and water lines in 2008. They are now focal points, surrounded by a mixture of Hosta, sun perennials and sedums out front and in the large woodland garden area in the back. Jeanne shared the fact that she loved her rocks not only because they were so unique but also because they enabled her to grow plants that would not normally survive the cold Minnesota winters. The boulders not only block the winter cold, they absorb the sun's rays during the day to provide a certain level of warmth to the plants. Who knew you could grow Japanese Maples like that in Minnesota!



As much as I enjoyed all of the hardscape, I doubly enjoyed the large variety of beautifully grown Hosta and companion plants. It was easy to see that this garden is a genuine labor of love. I think that out of all the conventions and all of the garden tours, I can safely say that this was the first time I was not ready to get back on the bus.

Thanks for letting us visit your garden, It is truly a sanctuary.

Submitted by Cheryl Hird



## The Farnham and Johnson Garden

The setting for this garden is as interesting, or nearly so, as the specimens found in it. The bus took us out in the country to a multi-acre site. We start out on flat land but then come to a dropoff leading to the river valley floor far below. Two gardens are separated by the entrance area, but the plantings continue down the hillside path and end at a wide meadow that extends in the distance to the river bank.

To the right of the entrance is the first garden, nicely secluded by trees and tall shrubs on all sides. Here, in what is termed the Roadside Garden, one finds a three-level fish pond (complete with lily pads) with seating for conversation or contemplation. This garden has the feel of traditional hosta displays and was probably the first planted, for the varieties represented seem to be older introductions. Here, and throughout, it appears serious soil enhancement was undertaken and perhaps watering systems installed, for the hostas are grown healthy, large and full, despite our Midwest drought.



To the left one sees a planted area open to the house, called the Cottage Garden. Here is a splendid hosta display (I especially appreciated the two tiered terracing which facilitated examining minis and small hostas up close). Proceeding, one comes upon an inviting path which leads toward the edge of the flat area overlooking the river valley. The garden plantings do not stop there, however, but continue along the hillside descending path through a series of S-turns to the meadow far below. Hostas in pots

of an amazing array of styles mark the corners at each cutback. At the top and all the way down we encounter, one after another, over fifty spaces set out in the open with table and chairs or other seating arrangements, again in a dizzying variety of styles. Halfway down there is a natural grotto containing another table and chairs. Out in the open is a sunny area complete with white sand that is readily interpreted as a beach perfect for picnics. At points the path and seat-





ing areas were made possible by building retaining walls and bringing in fill by hand truck.

In both gardens the hardscape is so fascinating that after a while one almost gets used to encountering new sources of charm and invention. And the ornamental small trees, shrubs and sunny perennials and tropicals one finds throughout are very effectively used, as are the shade companion plants—bi-color *Caladiums* were outstanding. Our main focus, however, was the fabulous collection of mature hostas, the varieties of which number over 1000. There are many rare hostas (e.g., *Sheila McQueen*, *Command Performance*, *Mister Twister*, to name just three I recollect). Several times I heard remarks like “Why, I’ve never seen that hosta before.” Wonderful examples of streaked hostas could be found in both gardens. I remember especially *Polychrome*, *Promenade* and *Sweet Standard*. One comes away with the impression that if some hosta is not represented here, it’s probably not worth having.

What an accomplishment this garden represents. It is a fun area, terrific for parties; it is a site of art and beauty; and horticulturally it is among the most enviable collections I have ever enjoyed.

Submitted by Jim King



## The Greene and Eckman Garden

Kim and George started the hosta garden after visiting Shady Oaks Nursery in the mid 1990's. Since becoming members of Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota, their hosta collection has grown to over 300 different varieties of hostas. They have five mini-hosta gardens to enjoy plus a number of varieties of ferns.



Viewing the garden from the back deck of their home overlooking several walking trails through hosta beds is very relaxing. A new garden is being added along the right side of the driveway, so the landscape is always changing.



*Hosta 'Kaleidochrome'*

The Fall of 2008 was when they decided to add a large pond to their landscape design. They dug and built the 6,000 gallon pond by hand along with the two bogs and overflow pond that provide natural filtration for the pond system.



H. 'St Paul'



In addition to shade gardens, there is a vegetable garden, a wildflower garden, and several full sun gardens. There are over 20 varieties of clematis and numerous conifers and ornamental evergreens. Benches scattered throughout the gardens offer resting places. One of my favorite spots contained a beautiful *Hosta 'Praying Hands'*.

Submitted by Patricia (Pat) Gwidt



*H. 'Praying Hands'*



Hostas 'Deep Blue Sea', 'Fireworks', and ?



*Hosta*—not

## The Keehn Garden



**H. 'Blue Mammoth'**

well-planned and has good 'bones' with plenty of room for plants to grow and more hostas and other perennials to be added. Pristine grassy lawns enhance both the formal and natural elements. Well-laid walkways are one of the many outstanding features of Rick and Mona's gardens.

Near the house, a distinctive black and tan stone was accented by bushes. The beige and light gray bricks of the house surrounded a recessed window. Planted below the window were small trees, perennials, and three young 'Liberty'.

To the left of the house, the original grade and tall trees sloped to the back yard with ostrich ferns and purple coneflower in full bloom at the base of the trees. As I started toward the gardens behind the house, large specimens of 'Elvis Lives' and 'Sagae' stood out amongst the many hosta in the mixed border on the left.



**The Professionals at work**

As Rick and Mona Keehn greeted guests at the entrance of their circular drive, I first noticed the landscaped gardens and manicured lawn and their beautiful beige brick home. The concrete drive was bordered on the right by a pattern of pavers and lined with maturing trees. At the center of the drive, the original grassy elevation and tall, mature trees had been retained, held in place by a retaining wall that followed the curve of the drive. On the left, my eye was lifted above the hostas, perennials and annuals in the border to hanging baskets overflowing with bright orange-red New Guinea Impatiens and cool chartreuse licorice plants supported at regular intervals by elegantly curved shepherd's hooks.

The Keehn Garden is a relatively young garden with many mature and maturing hostas, but it has been



On the right, the terraced beds by the house held an assortment of hostas that included 'Blue Wedgwood', 'Striptease', and a trio of 'Patriot'.

Further on, the chartreuse margins of a young clump of 'Sum of All' shone as it was touched by sunlight. 'Blue Mammoth' – well on its way to being mammoth - stood to the front of a large garden stone engraved with 'The Keehn Gardens'.

Two of my older favorites – the always distinctive deep waxy blue of 'Deep Blue Sea' and the soft, muted chartreuse of 'Inniswood' – drew me further into the gardens where I discovered a mix of two worlds. One was a wooded 'wild' garden brimming

with ferns, stones, and native plants while the other was manmade with gardens and manicured lawns.

Running throughout were immaculate stone walkways connecting gardens and lawns and directing the feet of visitors. White squares at four foot intervals alternated along the edges of many of the paths. I had been told that the lighting in Rick and Mona's garden was lovely in the evening, and I imagined the soft glow those lighted pathways would give in the dusk of summer evenings as fireflies sent out their blinking signals...

At the rear of the house, a large concrete area held several patio tables and chairs. A wooden swing hung from under the upper story deck. Arlie Tempel was one of the first to take a break in it to enjoy the garden views. At the opposite end of the patio, several deck levels provided more room to relax and entertain guests. Near the lawn an elegant metal sculpture's crescents and ovals suggested movement and dance.



**H. 'Simply Sharon'**



**H. 'Cascades'**

In the gardens, several lines of smaller hostas circled around 'Sum and Substance' past 'Titanic' and on to another 'Sum and Substance'. This formal element was offset by the natural woodiness of nearby areas. One walkway leading through a 'wild' area ended at a large circle – concentric rings of one type of paving stone – with a fire pit at the center. Between two walkways leading into the circle a semi-circular wall added elevation while keeping the 'wild' at bay.

Dappled light fell on plantings and walkways giving a natural, cozy feeling throughout the gardens. At the rear of the property, the lighted walkway ended at a flat, grassy lawn – the perfect place for a game of croquet on a summer day.

Leading back to the house a walkway was over-

lapped on both sides by large hostas with coral, salmon, and white impatiens at their feet. Closer to the house a walkway made from the same stones set in a diagonal pattern intersected at an angle and led to the lawn by the patio. Simple walkways of flagstone led through the gardens and toward the shed on the far side of the lot.

The garden opposite the patio area held a pond with water lilies and water grasses. A small waterfall cascaded from a raised area covered by rocks and ground hugging conifers. Hakonechloa, hostas and small ground covers nestled amongst the rocks. Water cascaded down the sides of three dark cone-shaped rocks at one end of the pond. Nearby a large, dark gray rectangular stone balanced perfectly on a



**H. 'Brave Amherst'**



H. 'Atlantis' and 'Bridegroom'

larger triangular stone with a gold-centered hosta showcased at the base.

Beautiful hosta specimens and combinations were everywhere in the gardens: the first fragrant blooms of 'Cathedral Windows' peeked above its glossy foliage; the lovely, low mound of 'Hadsphen Blue'; a well-grown trio of 'Little Sunspot'; the pleasing pairing of 'Atlantis' and 'Bridegroom'; the excellent streaking of a mature 'Regal Promenade'.

As I made my way through the gardens near the shed, friends told me I 'had' to take a look inside. But first my attention was taken by the placement of stones creating a dry creek bed flowing through the hosta. And then by a hosta specimen that caused my jaw to drop: Bob Kuk's 'Simply Sharon' with a backdrop of charcoal gray stones was full-grown and absolutely stunning!! I'd never seen one so large or so beautiful before.

Behind the shed were orderly pallets stacked with the various stones used to build retaining walls and walkways on the property. Against the building was storage for wood, firewood, and wheel barrows.

Inside the neat and organized shed, shelving was stocked with all the products gardeners need. Worktables, a riding lawnmower, garden equipment, and more shelving weren't enough to fill the large building. A deep triple basin stainless steel sink was centered in a countertop beneath tall windows that created a wonderful light-filled work environment.

As I wandered back outside, I came across a hosta I wasn't familiar with - a very dark 'black-green' hosta named 'Dark Matter'. After a bit of research, I discovered it is an open pollinated seedling of 'Karin' that was registered by Phyllis Kedl. Phyllis lives in the Minneapolis area and is better known to those who frequent the online Hallson Forums as 'GrannyNanny'. I've known Phyllis online for many years, and I had the pleasure of meeting her at the AHS convention in Minneapolis in 2010. It was neat to discover one of her introductions in a convention garden!

The gardens outside the shed featured several blonde stone obelisks for height and visual interest. A pair of yellow-chartreuse 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie' sat near the base of one. Small delicately cut ferns were scattered through the area. Other standouts among many included the narrow-centered 'Great Expectations' sport - 'Dream Queen', a mature *Hosta laevigata* with scapes emerging, the bold speckles and streaks of 'Gunther's Prize', a compactly rounded 'T-Dawg', and the arching elegant flow of 'Yellow River'.

I ran out of time in the young garden the Keehns have created. It has many wonderful elements, and I'm sure they will keep adding more plantings while those already in place continue to mature into the ample spaces they've been given. This is a garden I hope to see again one day in four or five years. I know it will be wonderful. It already is!!



H. 'Gunther's Prize'

Submitted by Reldon Ramsey

## The Herring Garden

Where do you begin with the Herring's garden? This garden has literally something for everyone, with a wide variety of plants to enhance the amazing hardscape. Vince and Mary have had 33 years to work with their 21 acres. I do believe that it has taken a good share of those 33 years to create the gardens that we had the privilege of visiting. What a magnificent setting for the Herrings to work in. The views and backdrops that help create the feel in this garden are rare, especially for those of us who have to garden on relatively flat ground.



As we began the tour we were greeted with an explosion of color from one of Mary's beds of coleus. Mary is a collector of coleus and has 300 plus varieties. The hardscape of this bed are terraces stacked stone with boulders placed in a number of the beds. We passed a statue of a little girl peacefully reading a book into a series of ponds that created such a serene setting that you also would have loved to sit on the grass and read a good book. Here too we were able to catch a glimpse of one of the jewels of the garden, the waterfall that leads into the swimming pond.



A stone path lead us to a tranquil bog with numerous varieties of water plants. I can only imagine the beautiful sounds that resonate from this bog, to sing you to sleep at night. It was refreshing to see the beauty of this natural area.

A rather unique feature in the Herring's garden is something that neither a child nor a hobbit could resist playing in. Even Kim Larson couldn't resist crawling through the tunnel which was created in this hillside garden. Of course there was some encouragement, or should I say, some egging on by some of her hosta friends. The hillside is covered with various succulents, grasses and wildflowers creating a rather uncontrollable urge to come and see what is on the other side of the tunnel.



As we rounded the base of the hill, we were greeted by the soothing sound of a babbling



brook. The brook led to yet another beautiful pond adorned with statues of children at play. In the nearby pasture I noticed what seemed to be two very stationary goats atop a large outcropping of rocks. As still as they were, I was beginning to wonder if they were real. Suddenly one began to chew and move around. I was able to observe the goat in a beautifully designed and constructed pergola. Vince, in his shop, had turned the wooden posts that up held this unique structure.

Turning around you see a path that leads straight into a grotto. Each of the walls leading in were decorated with sand carved stones with the words Faith, Believe, Courage, and Imagine. As you entered the grotto you were overwhelmed with the beauty and the tremendous work that it took to create this sanctuary. The floor of the grotto was lit with rope lighting creat-

ing a unique effect. The walls were decorated with candles and rosary beads from all over the world. Many of the rosary beads were presented to the Herrings as gifts from friends as they traveled around the world. The ceiling was a gorgeous stained glass, that was back lit creating a comforting feeling. In the middle of the grotto was a statue of the Virgin Mary, which Mary and Vince bought when they had privilege of visiting the Vatican. The statue was also blessed by Pope John Paul. I overheard Vince telling Don Dean that on occasion he would go into the grotto after doing some weeding in the garden to cool off. When he was cooling off, he may have also just nodded off for a cat nap. Mary would walk in on him and as was napping she would ask, "What are you doing?" and Vince would quickly respond "AMEN." I can't imagine a better place to sit and reflect and reconnect with the "Creator." I know that this is the first grotto that I have visited in a private garden. Following the path around the grotto we found this rather inviting seat which appeared to be a boulder, cut perfectly in half. Vince told the story about how the boulder was dropped off of the truck and had split perfectly in half creating this most interesting bench.



Climbing to the top of the grotto was something to behold. With your ascent to the top of "holy hill" you had a chance to overlook the gardens and enjoy the fantastic view of the surrounding area. Many hostas with spiritual or religious names were planted here. Hostas such as 'Holy Mole', 'Praying Hands', 'Stained Glass', 'Cathedral Windows', and 'Faith'. This was extremely impressive, just the ability to see the bogs, the swimming pond, the flower beds and the complete overview of the property was breathtaking.

The swimming pond is positioned and landscaped to create something so natural that it looks like it has always been on the property. The weather being what it was, this feature of the garden was tempting us to go for a swim with the large koi that live in the pond. Lake Anxious

seems like the perfect place to release all your anxieties, so peaceful and tranquil. Imagine spending time relaxing, swimming and just taking in the tremendous beauty of the Herring's garden.

We did not have enough time as we would have liked to explore and take in the all the gardens surrounding the house. We could see that the gardens were full of unique artwork. Statues, pink flamingos, bird baths, an array of miniature gardens, stone faces, and a greenhouse any gardener would enjoy created a harmony between hard-scape and landscape. While talking to Mary she stated she loved to have fellow gardeners come and tour the gardens, because they appreciate the variety of plants, and the tremendous amount of work that it took to create their gardens.



Having been on numerous tours this has to be one of my favorite gardens that I have had to privilege to visit. What amazes me even more is that Mary, Vince and their family did everything to create this little slice of heaven on earth. I can hardly fathom the amount of time and effort that was needed to create this garden. It is hard to come up with enough superlatives. Mary and Vince, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to visit your gardens. It was a pleasure meeting each of you. We only hope that someday we will be able to come back and spend more time touring this masterpiece that you have created.



Submitted by Bruce Van Wyk



## 2012 MRHS Convention

### 'Affair of the Heart' Hosta Show - 'Operation Hosta'

Thanks to everyone who entered leaves, troughs, container grown hostas or artistic designs... your efforts made the Hosta Show a success! This was my first effort chairing a Hosta Show and I was very grateful for the volunteers from Green Bay who wanted some Hosta Show experience as well as the legion of Shades of Green Hosta Society volunteers who helped out. Special expertise was provided by Sally Stewart, Carolyn Hamilton, Kim Larsen, Sandy Tomashek and Jan Gerke who all served on the Hosta Show Committee in various capacities. Thanks also to Gregg and Amy Peterson who schlepped the Minnesota Hosta Society's Hosta Show supplies to and fro. It truly takes a group effort to pull off a Hosta Show!!

This summer's excessive heat and humidity took a toll on many hosta gardens but the leaves that were entered were excellent examples of well-grown (and lovingly tended) hostas. While numbers were, accordingly, a little low, the quality was very high and a good cross section of varieties both old and new were represented, along with a smattering of entries in Container Grown, Troughs Arranged for Effect, and Artistic Design. Overall, there were 37 exhibitors and approximately 270 attendees who viewed the Hosta Show. There were 239 entries in Division I – Horticulture (Cut Leaf).

Here are this year's winners – congratulations to each – and keep entering!

**BEST OF SHOW: *H.* 'Devon Green' – Exhibitor, Mark Mulzer**

**BEST SEEDLING OR SPORT: *H.* LPG – Exhibitor, Ed Schulz, Sr.**

**SWEEPSTAKES WINNER: Ed Schulz, Sr. (17 Blue Ribbons!)**

#### **DIVISION I – Horticulture:**

- Section I – *H.* 'Yellow River' – Exhibitor, Carolyn Hamilton
- Section II – *H.* 'Tidewater' – Exhibitor, Ed Schulz, Sr.
- Section III – *H.* 'Alligator Shoes' – Exhibitor, Patricia Gwidt
- Section IV – *H.* 'Devon Green' – Exhibitor – Mark Mulzer
- Section V – *H.* 'Cameo' – Exhibitor – Nancy Fiedler
- Section VI: No entries
- Section VII: *H.* 'LPG' - Exhibitor, Ed Schulz Sr.
- Section VIII: 2 BOC - Cl I, *H.* 'TSI', Exhibitor, Ed Schulz Sr.;  
Cl 6a, *H.* Seedling OP, Exhibitor, Mark Mulzer
- Section IX: No entries
- Section X: BOC- *H.* 'Neat Splash' x OP, Exhibitor, Glenn Herold
- Section XI: No entries
- Section XII: BOS, *H.* 'Hyuga Urajiro' – Exhibitor, Sally Stewart

#### **DIVISION II – Container Grown Hosta**

Grand Award: *H.* 'Plum Nutty' – Exhibitor, Nancy Solberg



H. 'Devon Green'

**DIVISION III – Trough/Container Gardens  
Arranged for Effect**

Grand Award: Exhibitor, Josh Spece



**DIVISION IV – Educational Exhibits**

No entries

**DIVISION V – Non-Competitive Exhibits – No  
Entries**

**DIVISION VI – Artistic Design: ‘Heart in Hand’ – Exhibitor, Lisa  
Putnam**



**DIVISION VII – Specialty Division – Not offered**

MRHS is blessed with a bounty of excellent AHS judges at all levels who step up year after year to judge local, regional and national shows. At Operation Hosta/MRHS 2012 Hosta Show, ‘Affair of the Heart’, all the AHS judges and clerks along with the Federated Garden Judges did a fantastic job! Please consider helping out at future Hosta Shows, or better yet, take Judging Clinic I and get started on a path to becoming an AHS Show Judge!

Looking forward to 2013 Hosta Shows in Chicago and Milwaukee – hope to see you there!

Cindy Tomashek, MRHS 2012 Show Chair



## **Winter Scientific Meeting**

### **Sponsored by the 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 19, 2013 at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. 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. You can also make your hotel reservation online by clicking on the link below:

[http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2012/ORDLI\\_WSM/main.wnt](http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2012/ORDLI_WSM/main.wnt)

Speakers scheduled for 2013 include:

- ... Olga Petryszyn
- ... Rob Mortko
- ... Jeff Miller
- ... Bob Solberg
- ... Glenn Herold
- ... Mark Zilis.

Topics for each speaker's presentation will be announced on the Midwest Regional Hosta Society website as they are finalized.

The program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. 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 \$55 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$65 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 with the registration form to:

Kristine James  
523 E. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock Ill. 60098

**Registrations postmarked after January 7 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.**

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

# 2013 WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Make a copy of this registration form for your records.

If you would like confirmation of your registration, 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		MRHS member    Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS		
CITY		If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?
STATE		
ZIP		
PHONE		YES    NO
EMAIL		

**ATTENDEE 2:**    Address same as Attendee 1

NAME		MRHS member    Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS		
CITY		If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society?
STATE		
ZIP		
PHONE		YES    NO
EMAIL		

**Registrations postmarked after January 7, 2013 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.  
Cancellations before January 7, 2013 will be sent a full refund.  
We will be unable to issue refunds after January 7, 2013.**

Number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X55 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ X65= \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of late registrations \_\_\_\_\_ X10= \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS**

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

Questions about registration? Contact Kristine at MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com or phone: 815-337-4621

## AHS Convention 2013



**Plan your Escape to Wisconsin now! Beautiful gardens, good friends, great food, and many local attractions await you.**

**See you June 13-15, 2013 in Milwaukee, WI**

**Registration for this convention is \$139 per person**

**Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel \$105 per night includes hot breakfast buffet.**

**Gardens will be toured by carpooling. Every effort will be made to arrange rides to gardens for attendees that fly in to the convention.**

**More information and details [www.2013ahsconvention.com](http://www.2013ahsconvention.com)**

## AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

We invite you to join over 3,000 other hosta enthusiasts as members of the American Hosta Society. Members receive two printed 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. Once each year members also receive access to *The Online Hosta Journal*. 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.

[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)

### Advertise in the *Hosta Leaves*

Contact Floyd Rogers for publishing deadlines and more details. (630) 858-3538 or [fmrogers@noctrl.edu](mailto:fmrogers@noctrl.edu)



Hosta 'Totally Awe Sum'

<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"
1/2 page	175	300	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	90	155	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3½" x 2"
<b>Black &amp; White Ads:</b>			
<b>Size</b>	<b>Single Issue</b>	<b>Full Year</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
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 2012 NEWSLETTER**

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

**Membership**

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice. If it says “2012”, please send in your check to continue your membership. We would miss you. If the date is later, send in a check anyway *just in case*.

**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 Kristine James. Next summer’s 2013 convention will be held in Lisle, IL, 2014 in Green Bay, WI. 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!