

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 75

FALL 2013

WSM REGISTRATION; LISLE CONVENTION IN REVIEW

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN CONVENTION



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## President's Message

After attending three plant conventions within five weeks (AHS, MRHS, and American Conifer Society central region) you'd think I'd be about gardened out for the summer. But after seeing all the fabulous gardens in the Chicago area, I can't wait to try out some of the plants and gardening ideas in my own yard. Thanks to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society and convention chair Barbara King for the excellent hospitality and garden experiences. Special thanks to Pete Postlewaite and Lou Horton for urging the NIHS to host the convention and to the many volunteers of the club who made it possible.

I'm sure Barbara and the committee would agree that it was a lot of work, but worth the effort because of the satisfying results. I look forward to next year's convention, hosted by the Green and Gold Hosta Society in Green Bay, but worry about the future, for no one has committed to host a convention beyond 2014. Please urge your local club to host a convention, so that we can continue to meet on an annual basis to renew friendships and talk about the plants we love. Contact me if you are interested. You won't regret it.

Looking ahead to January, if you have never attended the Winter Scientific Meeting in Lisle, IL, plan now to make it your first. Don't be intimidated by the name of the event, for there is something for all levels of expertise. Check the MRHS web site (<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>) for more information.

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. You're never too far from a hosta friend!



Glenn Herold, President

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

## 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 Montgomery Award, honoring the memory of DeEtta Montgomery, is awarded annually to a member of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society who has earnestly pursued the promotion and use of hostas, and has volunteered their time and talents in such endeavors. This year's award is given to Carolyn Hamilton.

Carolyn has been a member of the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society since 1996 when she was introduced to the plant by DeEtta herself. In the MVHS, she served two terms as treasurer, two terms as secretary, three terms as president, and was co-chair of the plant sale on numerous occasions. In the MRHS, she was secretary for two terms, vice president for one term, co-chaired the 2007 MRHS convention in Davenport, IA, and assists with leaf shows both as tabulation chair and as a participant.

Carolyn has made many friends at hosta conventions with her warm smile and enthusiasm for the plant. She continues to attend meetings and promotes hostas both locally and regionally. She helps when needed and many current members look up to her for her generosity and expertise. Carolyn Hamilton is a great representative of the award named after her friend. It is an honor to present her with the Montgomery award.



# ❧ Czech It Out! ❧

**Vitáme Vás**

*(We welcome you)*

The 2014 AHS Convention is less than a year away. **Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited to be your host for this convention. We have been planning and working hard to make your visit to Iowa a positive experience, and the convention a memorial one.

*The convention will feature optional bus tours on Wednesday and Thursday to showcase our local culture and cuisine*

## **The Amana Colonies**

The colonies are a world renowned tourist destination that offers old world German charm.

## **The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library**

This Cedar Rapids Museum celebrates the culture and heritage of thousands of Czech and Slovak immigrants to Linn and Johnson counties.

**Of course, the real reason for attending the convention is for the hostas and gardens.**

The rich black soil of the heartland provides an excellent environment for beautiful gardens accented with the creative flavor of Middle America.

- **We have 10 exciting gardens for you to visit on Friday and Saturday**
- **More optional gardens on Sunday as you return home**

**Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited and proud to be hosting the 2014 AHS convention. We will have the Collins Road Marriott Hotel to ourselves to enhance the experience.

## **Come to the convention to...**

- ✓ **See our Hostas!**
- ✓ **Sample our Heritage**  
(be sure to check out yours)
- ✓ **Experience our Warm**  
**Midwestern Hospitality**



**Come to Cedar Rapids June 11-14, 2014**  
**to Czech It Out!**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA  
SOCIETY**

**CONVENTION**

**“HOSTAS BY THE BAY”**

**GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN**

**JUNE 26-28, 2014**



The Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeast Wisconsin invites you to take a leap to your calendar and reserve the dates to join us for the convention. The lineup of activities for the three days include tours of six outstanding private gardens, an auction of Hostas of all colors, some will be our team colors of green and gold. Seminars will be quarterbacked by local and nationally recognized Hosta experts. An afternoon tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden followed by a supper tailgate party will serve as a kickoff to the Hosta Auction back at the hotel. If you don't score at the Auction, there will be 10 vendors available throughout the convention to offer a wide selection of new and old favorites of hosta plants, conifers and yard art. You might want to take a chance at the raffle table where the Hosta Trophy of your dream awaits you. The leaf show winning entries will be displayed for all to see. An optional tour to Door County for a fish boil is available.

Contact the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at (920) 494-7300 and be sure to mention **MHRS Convention** to get the special rate of \$99.00 per night, plus tax. You will be assured a room for the convention. A breakfast buffet each morning is included.

For a registration form contact Pat Gwidt, [pathen33@yahoo.com](mailto:pathen33@yahoo.com) or Judy Sytsma, [judysgarden.43@gmail.com](mailto:judysgarden.43@gmail.com)

For the latest details, schedules and updates go to <http://greenandgoldhosta.org/2014-convention.html>

**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget Recommendations for 2014**

**ALL ACCOUNTS**

**Approved July 13, 2013**

| <b>Category</b>           | <b>2013 Budget</b> | <b>2014 Budget</b> | <b>Change</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>Income:</b>            |                    |                    |               |
| Convention                | 6000.00            | 4000.00            | (2000.00)     |
| Income-Interest           | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00          |
| Membership                | <u>1660.00</u>     | <u>2210.00</u>     | <u>550.00</u> |
| Subtotal                  | <u>7660.00</u>     | <u>6210.00</u>     |               |
| <b>Expenses:</b>          |                    |                    |               |
| AHS Awards                | 0.00               | (200.00)           | (200.00)      |
| AHS Montgomery Award      | 0.00               | (100.00)           | (100.00)      |
| Grants                    | (1000.00)          | (1000.00)          | 0.00          |
| Internet Site             | (225.00)           | (200.00)           | 25.00         |
| Miscellaneous             | (300.00)           | (100.00)           | 200.00        |
| Newsletter                | (3000.00)          | (1600.00)          | 1400.00       |
| Winter Scientific         | (3000.00)          | (4000.00)          | (1000.00)     |
| Subtotal                  | (7525.00)          | (7200.00)          |               |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <u>135.00</u>      | <u>(990.00)</u>    |               |
| <b>Current Net Worth:</b> | <u>33103.97</u>    |                    |               |

**Additional Note:**

The Budget item for Grants is to support the AHS Nematode Research

**To all MRHS members:**

2013 is the second consecutive year that we have had a balanced budget. 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

## Moon Shadow Garden

John and Ellen Van Ostrand



John & Ellen have been gardening at this location for the past eighteen years. The Moon Shadow Gardens consist of approximately 1 ½ acres, about fifteen percent of which is a shallow wetland in the far rear yard. The property is shaded with mature shagbark hickory and oak trees, which provide high shade ideal for growing hostas.

John likes to develop new plants, especially growing hosta from seed all winter long and watching for sports in the summer time.

In 2002-2003 John registered *Hosta* 'Spring Fever' and 'Flame Tiara.' In 2007 John registered 'Wave Runner.'

He has several *Hostas* that are not registered like 'Silver Cloud', 'Lookin at You Kid' and 'We'll Always Have Paris.'

The garden includes over 450 named cultivars, plus numerous unnamed *hosta* seedlings and sports that John has under evaluation, many of which are just worked into the general garden setting. Plus the garden has many companion plants, such as *Heuchera*, ferns, *Epimedium* and other shade plants.



As for Ellen's garden she prefers to garden generally in the sunnier areas. It's a struggle for her to find enough sun for the yellow hollyhocks, iris, peony and daylilies.



submitted by Pat Gwidt

## Hosta Mañana

Floyd and Betsy Rogers



It's hard to imagine that Floyd and Betsy Rogers have time to garden at all, given the amount of time spent volunteering for MRHS, AHS and with their local Northern Illinois Hosta Society, yet they have created a richly layered oasis of hostas, trees and perennials on their 1/3 acre that is a delight to behold. Floyd's 2+ decades of hosta gardening includes a spate running a garden center with his brother, a deep appreciation for shade companion plants, and passion enough to grow some plants from seed.

My visit started in the Rogers' backyard. Beneath the branches of *Fagus* 'Tricolor',

*Hosta* 'American Gothic' was putting on a complementary show of lovely white blossoms, while more specimens, including *H.* 'Russ O'Harra', anchored this welcoming stretch of the backyard border.

Deeper into the backyard, Burr Oaks and Paperbark Maples provide shade, the latter also offering bronze peeling bark - even the shade plants seemed to admire the company. In open areas, gracefully arching stands of ornamental grasses



(*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegata' and 'Morning Light', along with *Calamagrostis arundinacea* 'Karl Foerster' and *Chasmathium latifolia* aka Northern Sea Oats), provide a backdrop for some new hostas. Floyd's love of quartz is evident as well as an appreciation of whimsical and aesthetic garden accents, all worked nicely into the beds.

While time was running short, a commanding clump of *Acanthus spinosus*





(Bears Breeches) anchoring the curve of a large bed caught my attention and I took extra time to admire its intriguingly coarse yet beautiful presence as it would likely not survive our Zone 4 winters. Reluctantly turning away, a captivating vision of *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Goldheart' and *H.* 'Blue Angel' dispelled my zone envy and offered inspiration for something I could duplicate.

Having rushed into the backyard, my parting vision of Rogers' restful haven was the well-appointed front terrace bed of Hostas, Heuchera, Heuchera, and Japanese Forest Grass that tantalize passersby and offer a hint of the backyard beauty. It was a pleasure and a privilege to get a pass to the whole yard - thanks Floyd and Betsy!

submitted by Cindy Tomashek



*H.* 'Roderick'



## Shady Path

Pete and Pam Postlewaite



'Spotty Dotty'

Pete Postlewaite often wears a T-Shirt saying, "Bigger IS Better!" He is the master of understatement. Pete's collection is my idea of the ideal Hosta Tour Garden: a good number of carefully selected hostas that are exquisitely grown, meticulously groomed—and arguably the largest of each cultivar you will ever encounter (many of Lou Horton's beehemoth specimens are currently under scrutiny for suspected Duck Dung Doping—a banned substance in friendly gardening competitions).

However, in addition to these phenomenal hostas Pete has a garden! A very fine garden with all the elements that Alex Summers said are necessary for a truly great garden: running water, elevation, fine trees, and beautiful companion plants (companions for the hostas). In fact Pete does this so well that garden tours are prone to envy his Spotted Dotty May Apple more than his hostas.

Some of the Alex's Elements pose problems, however. Growing hostas on a hillside can be a challenge. Among other things water, which must be present in ample amounts if you are to grow hostas to their fullest potential; water from rainfall and overhead sprinkling systems rushes uncontrolled down steep slopes and is available to hillside plantings only in large gulps if left to Mother Nature. Pete addressed this in his usual analytical and creative way—he installed "drip lines" for irrigation. His system consists of a series of 7 lines composed of thin flexible plastic pipes, each controlled separately, delivering water in (tiny) constant amounts to the base of each hosta. The result is spectacular.

One walks away thinking you, too, could grow 'Warwick Comet' and 'Maui Buttercups' to look like a small 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd', and 'Frances Williams' that isn't burned (there's a rare feat). We saw fastidious plants that looked like photos in magazines—'Ann Kulpa' and 'Bill Brincka' and more. And Pete makes it all look so easy and re-



H. 'Ann Kulpa'

laxed: A string quartet playing Mozart could be heard during our leisurely stroll about his lovely place.

submitted by Bob Olson



*H. 'Heat Wave'*



*H. 'Amazing Grace'*



*H. 'Frosted Jade'*

## Hosta Patch

Tom and Becki Micheletti

Midwest Hosta Society members had the opportunity at the Micheletti's to immerse themselves in countryside charm in a suburban setting located in Deer Park, Illinois. Anticipation runs high at an opportunity to view the hosta surprises awaiting the eye when visiting a garden owned by two so well known in the hosta world. After all, hosta enthusiasts thrive on shades of blue, green, and gold with splashes of white and gold variegation.

The approach to the Micheletti home was welcoming with its sweeping semi-circular drive, but where were the hosta? An entry framed with flowing crab trees was under-planted with a border of mixed hosta and various perennials and wild flowers. Rather than hosta being the dominant provider of color and texture, it was the brilliant perennial beds positioned curbside, with multi colored selections of thyme and also a sunny border of mixed perennials along the right side of the driveway leading to the back yard.



**H. 'Sharp Dressed Man'**

A collection of Tom's conifers was tucked into the landscape in this area and strikingly captured attention with artistic elements. Varying hues of blue, green, gold, and touches of silver emerged in a variety of columns, pyramids, and global shapes creating textured forms which rose from six feet to a towering forty feet or better.

When moving beyond the screen of conifers into the back yard, a vibrant red Japanese maple captured the eye. The beds planted with more hosta began there and expanded to all other areas of the yard where a well-placed pergola offered a walkway to other areas.

Where could the nursery called The Hosta Patch be? Surely it could not be the few modest shelves along the side of the garage. A path veered off to the right through some deciduous trees; there was the evidence indicating a nursery. Growing beds began and continued to the back of the yard. Many varieties of hosta were grown there. It was a learning experience to read labels and compare these younger plants to mental images of the mature specimens that are often seen in landscapes. Draping down over the edge of one such growing bed was a stunning sight. Tom's pride and joy conifer, an Alaskan cedar, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula', easily loomed 40 feet tall extending its pendulous branches a good 18-24" down from the main branch.

Moving out of the growing bed, the composition of the area changed dramatically. A sweeping open lawn was planted with a border stretched across the back and wound all the way around to the front yard. Large and diverse deciduous trees and shrubs were interspersed and accompanied by hosta as well as other shade tolerant perennials throughout this border. A dwarf river birch, another one of Tom's favorites, resides here. Nestled into the border, one hosta in particular was intriguing, because it was familiar, yet somewhat different. I thought it was a well-grown *Hosta* 'Heat Wave', but it was considerably too large. Instead, it was a little known hosta that originated at Winterberry Farms, a nursery and tissue culture lab that is no longer in business. The plant was 'Epiphany', a very wide edged sport of 'Paradigm'.



*H.* 'Epiphany'



*H.* 'Atlantis'

The deck, Becki's domain, as it was stated, had a large river birch and an even larger Rohanii purple cut leaf beech, *Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii', a treasure. A collection of 'Sum and Substance' sports was assembled there as well as one of the largest clumps of 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd,' five feet across, that this writer has seen. Becki's pride and joy, pots! Little pots and large pots, medium pots, three gallon size to one the size that a medium child could easily hide within, pots of perennials, and especially special pots filled with hosta. One of the largest pots imaginable was the home of a giant clump of 'Victory'. *H.* 'Liberty', 'Atlantis' with its glowing broad margin, 'Buster', and 'Humpback Whale' were

all displayed. One unrecognizable specimen begged the question, "What is this?" It was a pot of 'Piedmont Honey' (a special gift from hosta friend, Cindy Tomashek) which, although young, glowed.

Pleasing color variations of blues, greens, and gold as well as exquisitely changing textures, lines, shapes, and sizes teased the viewer with an auroral quality making the Michelletti's garden unforgettable. The entire landscape punctuated with its characteristic rural flair truly exhilarated the senses!

submitted by Don and Gail Dean



*H.* 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

## Serenity

Jim and Barbara King

The King garden was the last garden on the tour that we visited. It was late afternoon and time was getting away from us. We were hot and tired and definitely needed a shower before going to the banquet. With that in mind we knew we couldn't dawdle.

As we walked up the driveway we noticed that the front yard was sprinkled with sun perennials such as coneflowers and daylilies, hydrangea, and a few conifers. And yes, even some hostas could be found in the curving bed that hugged the driveway, the front of the house, and the side yard.



The gated entry into the back yard led us along a wood mulched path lined with round river rock. Edging the path on either side were an array of hostas that continued as we entered the backyard. Here we saw *H.* 'Rainbow's End', 'Gunther's Prize', 'Midnight Oil', and 'Bohemian Rhapsody' to name just a few.



On either side of the deck at the back of the house is a brick lined bed. One side is filled with hydrangea, lungwort, heuchera, a variety of hostas including *H.* 'Eternal Flame', 'Heat Wave', 'August Moon', and a ceramic pot of mouse ear hostas.

Located on the other side of the deck against the house is the herb garden and a pinnacle hydrangea. The remainder of the yard is dotted with islands of plantings, separate but yet not separate. They are connected by intersecting paths such as Hosta Circle, Magnolia Way, and Hosta Court, and Groundcover Trail.

The yard has a park-like atmosphere and as one fellow visitor commented: "I heard this was the most pristine garden". I had to agree. It was also noted that the King's must have a chicken or two hidden somewhere. There was no sign of any slug damage (or for matter, any other bug damage on the other plants) on any of their hundreds of hostas!

Amusing hardscape; instead of a gazing ball the King's have a "hosta" ball.

*H.* 'Touch of Class', 'Fijibotan', 'Powder Keg' along Magnolia Way while Hakone grass and heuchera,



under the young oaks make an attractive contrast with hostas *H.* 'Silver Bay', 'Paradigm', and 'Alley Oop' in one of the islands.

A view from the deck catches the tricolor beech

As we were returning to the front of the house we passed a group of hostas, still in pots, awaiting to be planted. Just like home!

Numerous *H.* 'Royal Standard' were in the yard



when the Kings bought the house in 1978. Now, they surround a fernleaf beech alongside the driveway.



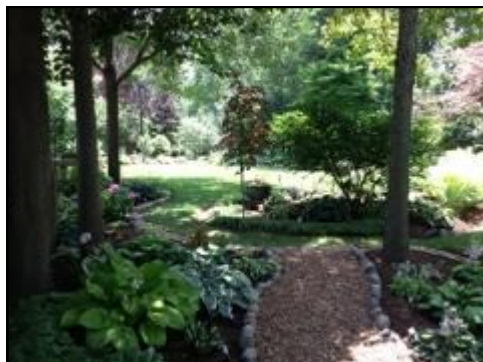
Unfortunately, Barbara had left to return to the hotel to prepare for the banquet so I cornered Jim to ask him a few questions about their garden.

I was curious about the type of soil he had and he was quick to answer that they had clay soil. When they prepared the beds in the back yard the soil had to be hauled out and replaced with a mixture of horse manure, compost, and a planting medium. The Kings like to travel in the winter so they fertilize in January, broadcasting a 13-13-13 fertilizer over the beds – right over the snow if necessary.



It is interesting to note that Jim's first interest was woody plants and one of his hobby's was growing bonsai. He now dubs his yard as "Our Little World of Hostas". In his opinion one of the best new hostas – *H.* 'Fingerprint'.

submitted by Holly and Jim O'Donnell



## Acorn Hollow

Lou and Nickie Horton

Pete Postlewaite has the saying that “Size Does Matter – bigger is better” and grows big hostas in his yard. But when Lou Horton brings a 175 pound H ‘Elgans” into the auction at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society meeting this past weekend, I think Lou has Pete beat on size of hostas. If you question who has the bigger hostas then go to Lou’s garden.



Walking around Lou’s garden you find the biggest ‘Victory” you, and even Mark Zilis, have ever seen. Many of these have been in the ground for years and Lou is a collector of “old” hostas that are no longer available in the trade, or very hard to find.

This past year has been one of Lou’s most trying years. From a severe heath problem, from which he is recovering, to the loss of

some of the 100-year old oaks that dot the yard (hence the garden name), Lou has kept on gardening like we all do. Entering the yard you are greeted by a cute frog mounted on a large boulder with a background of bottlebrush buckeye. All around the front yard you see the outstanding arrangement of plants, which Lou would say is more “luck” than skill (I think there is a lot of skill). There are hydrangeas everywhere you look. Sun plants have taken over some of the shaded areas where the trees once stood. The north bed is a mixture of Monarda, Cone Flowers and Daylilies along with other perennials and ornamental trees to add color to the garden.



In the other areas of the backyard you find a beautiful 25-foot tall tri-color Beech. A bed of H ‘Crusader’ surrounds a beautiful metal hosta sculpture. Nearby is the bed hosting many of Olga Petryszyn’s wonderful hostas: ‘Chesapeake Bay’, ‘Grand Canyon’ and ‘Mardi Gras’ to name a few. A large rare hosta ‘Steve Moldovan’ stands out in one

of the beds. Everywhere you turn there are large hostas. Trees and shrubs abound as well. Along the back of the yard you find the duck shelter housing many of Lou’s kids and the one of the reasons his hostas grow so big – need I say more.



Behind the fence in the back part of the yard is the hosta growing area for his many plants





that are offered for sale each year. Lou, as I noted, likes to grow and offer for sale many of the oldies that have grown so well for everyone. In addition here are some seedlings around the yard and in the back area, but they have come along thanks to the bees.

The next time you are in West Chicago stop by and visit with Nickie and Lou Horton – you will find some of the biggest hostas you have ever seen, and a true friend of the hosta world.

submitted by Rick Schroeder



# Hosta Habitat

Dennis and Connie Hood



It was decision time. After visiting several wonderful gardens on the MRHS Saturday tour, our traveling band of conventioners (me, my sister Mary Beth Vanous, and Jim Schwarz, to be exact), realized we had time for one more stop. After reviewing our convention brochure, we decided that the Dennis and Connie Hood garden in Elgin had a lot to offer hosta-wise...enough to perk us up and finish our day on an exciting note.

At 2:46 pm, as the voice on our GPS unit grew hoarse, we arrived at the garden and were greeted by the hosts and immediately impressed with the beautiful landscape. Over the next two hours, we viewed a wide variety of plant material, including hundreds of mature-sized hostas on all sides of the large-sized suburban lot. It certainly did not hurt that the Hoods prominently displayed some of my favorite hostas, including a few that I had introduced!



H. 'Little Red Rooster'



H. 'Great Arrival'

Standout hostas in the garden included the following, with my thoughts as I observed them in the garden:

- ◆ 'Little Red Rooster' (a rare one from Danny Van Eechaute of Belgium; largest specimen I've ever seen-16" by 48")
- ◆ *H. plantaginea* (well-grown clump of the only fragrant-flowered hosta species)
- ◆ 'Great Arrival' (big plant of my reversed 'Great Expectations')
- ◆ 'Krugerrand' (brilliant, large gold from Bob

Balitewicz)

- ◆ 'Ultramarine' (impeccable specimen of my 'Sea Lotus Leaf' X *H. kikutii leuconota* hybrid)
- ◆ 'Spinach Patch' (a Kevin Vaughn classic that seems forgotten by many collectors)
- ◆ 'Fort Knox' (big, gold, striking; one of Jim Wilkins' best)
- ◆ 'Abby' (lavender flowers in nice proportion to the dense mound of gold-edged foliage)
- ◆ 'Party Favor' (mature plant at the peak of flower; lots of seed pods; largest specimen I've seen-17"



by 52”)

- ◆ ‘Orion’s Belt’ (showy, wide, white margins; should be grown more)
- ◆ ‘Super Nova’ (haven’t seen a mature specimen of this in a long time)
- ◆ ‘Madam’ (never realized how tremendous this gold-leaved plant was)

As our time was running out, I stopped for a while to view the planting on the west side of the home. This area impressed me and was probably my favorite part of the Hood garden. Alongside a small stream, several large hostas grew



amidst a beautiful blend of plant texture, color, and form. The weeping cherry tree, purple-leaved coralbells, red-leaved Japanese maple, and a wealth of other perennials surrounded such hostas as ‘Sea Dream’, ‘Climax’, ‘Green Piecrust’, and ‘Key Lime Pie’. Adding interest was a well-placed specimen of *Equisetum* which provided an interesting vertical element as well sharply contrasting form. I wanted to linger a bit more, but all conventions must end and this one ended for us with a bang!

submitted by Mark R. Zilis



## Carl and Penny Fulkerson

The Northern Illinois Hosta Society put on a very, very good convention. I enjoyed many parts of the convention, but certainly the high point was my walking through Penny and Carl Fulkerson's garden. I kept getting nice surprises! Through the years, I had gotten quite used to hosta convention garden tours on buses. I liked touring on buses! I met new people, and I always had a place when I needed to go to the bathroom. So I was prepared to gripe about a self-driven tour, but it turned out that I liked the new regime. Make no mistake; this is the new regime. Buses cost money, lots of money!



While I'm on the subject of the new regime in hosta tours, many thanks to the men and women of Northern Illinois who charted out the driving directions for us. What a lot of work! And, how accurate! In Kildeer, our anonymous map wizards let us know that the sign for one street was missing!



But, I digress. First of all, the little town of Kildeer is something quite special! I've always heard that there was money in the Chicago area, and that morning I found it. What beautiful homes!

Then, parked at Fulkerson's, I admired their beautiful home and gardens. (Little did I then know what surprises were in store for me!) Clumps of colorful blooms near the street, and a wide expanse of lawn up to the house, where a nine-level waterfall gurgled into a pond with more colorful flowers. Over to the left, a shade bed with many striking hostas.

I walked over toward the garage and met Penny Fulkerson, gracious, talkative, and very, very proud of her 1.7 acre garden! And rightly so! She and Carl have been in that 26-year-old house for 17 years. Carl is the helper, but Penny is the gardener!

I was prepared to look at some beds of hostas, when I got my first surprise! A ten-foot-tall giraffe was staring out of a hosta bed at me! (I didn't know what was yet to come!) I continued walking and admired a parked wheelbarrow planted with dwarf conifers and a tiny "landscape" of dirt and gravel strewn with tiny metal toys and animals. Striking! Onward to another pond, this one graced with a twelve-year-old 'Sum and



Substance.’ I know we all have them, but they sure are pretty!

By this time, Carl had glommed on to me, because he knew what I had not seen yet! After the giraffe, a nine-foot crocodile was next, carved out of a horizontal dead tree. And then I saw it! A vertical dead tree, about 15 feet tall, with a carved leopard sneaking vertically down the trunk. The leopard, tan with dark spots, was beautiful, about five feet long. That’s when Carl opened up, telling me

all about his neighbor, Eric Widitz, who carves animals out of dead trees. This is garden art on a grand scale! Eric can be reached at (847) 562-6288; his website is [www.artwooddesigns.com](http://www.artwooddesigns.com).

submitted by Irwin Johnson



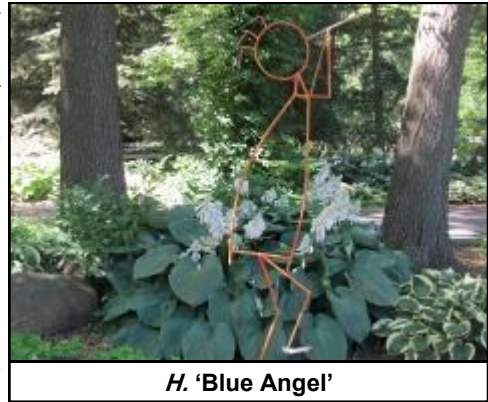
# Glenelg

Billie and Sam Childress

Glenelg is a 5 acre garden filled hosta and choice plants. Massive oaks and other mature trees provide the borders of the sunny meadow and canopy for the shade garden.

Located at the end of a cul de sac, the shady driveway invites you into this garden treasure. A perennial and shrub border separates you from the sunny meadow to the left. Large trees shade the large hosta and companion plantings to the right. Behind the home is a park like shade garden.

Garden art is used throughout this spacious garden, starting in the entry border. Metal sculpture toots its horn over large specimens of *Hosta* 'Blue Angel'. This hosta and others are repeated throughout the circular drive bed. The border and hosta bed provide a welcoming and serene entry.



*H. 'Blue Angel'*

A rustic vertical 3 layer fountain near the side front of the home is surrounded by Hakonechloa grass, ligularia, European ginger, fern and hosta. It stands as a sentinel along the flagstone path which takes you to the large shady garden. A mass planting of the blues, 'Blue Mammoth', 'Blue Umbrellas' and sieboldiana-type hostas, fill the side garden.



*H. 'Hollywood Lights'*

Meandering flagstone paths weave throughout the spacious shade garden. At the back of the home large raised patio, or veranda that overlooks the park like yard. A planting of small hosta including 'Praying Hands' accents the lines of the patio.

As you wander along the meandering paths you will be charmed by the wide assortment of plants, hosta and art incorporated into the garden. Hostas are used throughout and are a unifying force in the garden.

Some hosta, such as 'Hyacinthina', is used in mass to border a path and lead you along. Some are used in mass to provide background to feature some special plant such Japanese maple, Ohio Buckeye, Tri-color Beech and others are used as accent understory trees.

Some hosta are used as the focal point in a bed and accented by a wide assortment of shade tolerant plants. 'Guardian Angel' and 'St. Paul' stand out in one bed. 'Victory' stars in another. A beautiful 'Hollywood Lights' catches the eye also. 'Regal Su-



*H. 'Victory'*

preme' stands out also. Look for Cimicifuga, Ligularia, Columbine, Kirengeshoma, Trycirtis, etc. as the background for these hosta starts. Different ground covers are also used throughout.

Thoughtful consideration of where the sun comes through the canopy has allowed this garden to feature surprising sun loving perennials in a shade garden. Dwarf blue spruce, roses, grasses and daisy like flowers fill a sunny nook on one side of the home.



H. 'Guardian Angel'

Around the corner is a planting featuring 'Earth Angel', 'Birchwood Parky's Gold', and heuchera in an elevated bed with rock accents.

The flagstone paths and a large fire pit area add hardscape line and focal points to the garden. Pots filled and overflowing accent the walkway and beds.

Garden art is tucked into beds throughout the garden in quite interesting ways. Metal sculptures, painted windows, birdhouses and natural art are all used. My favorite was the huge wooden balls "carved" from large tree trunks. I also appreciated the giant tree that had died and was pruned into a sentinel overlooking the sunny garden meadow.

The wooded border that leads from the shaded yard to the sunny meadow is filled with more hosta, including oldies like 'Francis Williams'. 'Earth Angel' is repeated here also. Hosta and astilbe are also featured around a large boggy area filled with Petasites.

From the bog you can step out into the sunny meadow area. Numerous conifers, maples, and shrubs fill out the natural wooded border to create a private haven on two sides of the area. Mass daylilies, grasses and other sun loving perennials add color.

Going back along the border you just came out of is a sunny side featuring more sun tolerant plants including a variegated filipendula and a 'gold' aruncus.

Island beds of flowering crabs and other smaller trees break up the massive meadow area. These areas are also underplanted with daylilies, clematis, grasses and others.

Back along the driveway is the sunny side of the border along the driveway. This side has daylilies, lilies, grasses and roses. It is a riot of color.

Glenelg is a complete garden with interest for hosta lovers, for both sun and shade tolerant perennial gardeners, for grass (and carex) enthusiasts and for the tree aficionados, both conifer and deciduous. This garden shows thoughtful selection of plants for the light conditions available. New and exciting plants are tucked into many spots adding little surprises for the plant enthusiast. Old standards are also used to great advantage and repetition of plants creates a cohesive effect. The elements of good design are used throughout so the garden is visually pleasing. It was a pleasure to visit this garden.



submitted by Jean Meyer

## Xanadu

Ron and Judi Asselborn

Approaching the house, you walk along a drive bordered with bright flowers. Drifting to the path on the right there is a lovely shady woodland garden. Spreading under the trees are fern, Solomon Seal, Ginger, Turf Lily, Lungwort and many others. A forest understory symphony in green. The bowling ball Bumble Bee is a great humorous touch

Continuing along you encounter the Hosta. Oh My. Such lovely hosta in such profusion.

Many lovely hosta grow along the paths behind the house. The minis shine in a dedicated raised bed of their own. A waterfall with pool provides a soothing sound as you relax on the deck overlooking the Hostas.

As you continue along the path there is a small Asian garden. Set in front of a Bamboo fence is a small basin with a bamboo water spout. Adding the small dipper to allow the ritual washing of your hands before entering the temple is very authentic. A Buddha adds interest.



A mounded Rock garden featuring evergreens and Alpines is next on your tour. Then the wide expanse of the lawn spreads out before your gaze. Room for the grandchildren to play or to set up a croquet set.

This is a garden that is well balanced from shade to Sun and a delight to visit. Thank you for inviting us to enter your Xandu.

submitted by Anella Kuhar





## 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.")*



**Barb Schroeder & Rita Gindt-Marvig**



**Convention speaker—Mike Nowak**

## **Bylaw Change**

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501C3 organization. In order to do this we needed to make a amendment to the By Laws. This bylaw change was approved on 07/13/2013 with a majority vote of the members at the annual meeting. The change is as follows:

### **Old Article X**

#### **ARTICLE X – ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

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

### **New Article X and XI**

#### **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1** Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 50(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**Section 2** Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

#### **ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Schroeder, Treasurer

## 2013 MRHS Convention

'Hosta Mania' Show Results

Lisle, IL July 12, 2013

Show Chairs – Mary Ann Metz & Barb Schroeder

Show Co-Chair – John Van Ostrand

Classification Chair – John Van Ostrand

Schedule Chair – Mary Ann Metz

Placement Co-Chairs – Ellen Van Ostrand & Nancy Bodinet

Judges Chair – Mary Ann Metz

Number of Exhibitors – 23

Number of Entries:

Division I – 135

Sec. I – 9

Sec. II – 17

Sec. III -27

Sec. IV – 56

Sec. V – 15

Sec. VI – 1

Sec. VII – 0

Sec. VIII – 0

Sec. IX – 0

Sec. X – 0

Sec. XI – 0

Sec. XII - 10

Division II – 3

Division III – 5

Division IV – 1

Division V – 0

Division VI – 14

Division VII – 0



## Show Awards

### Division I

Best of Show – H. ‘Verna Jean’, Rita Gindt-Marvig

Best Seedling or Sport – o

Sweepstakes – Rita Gindt-Marvig; 16 first place

6 second place

1 third place

2 fourth place

5 Best of Class

1 Best of Section

1 Best of Show

Section I – o

Section II – H. ‘Savannah’, Pat Gwidt

Section III – H. ‘El Nino’, Sally Stewart

Section IV – H. ‘Verna Jean’, Rita Gindt-Marvig

Section V – o

Section VI – o

Section VII – o

Section VIII – o

Section IX – o

Section X – o

Section XI – o

Section XII – o

### Division II

Grand Award – o

### Division III

Grand Award – Andy Putnam

### Division IV

Grand Award – Rita Gindt-Marvig



### Division VI

Best Artistic Design Award - Rita Gindt-Marvig

### Division VII

Grand Award - o

Special note: for all of you reluctant to enter a Leaf Show, take a look at the awards won by Rita Gindt-Marvig. It was her first show! Now go out there and enter!

## 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 18, 2014 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.

Speakers scheduled for 2014 include:

- Bob Olson – Hostas of In-Distinction
- Glenn Herold – The Genus Liliium (exact topic TBA)
- Jeff Miller – Hosta Sports – When is Enough, Enough?
- Bob Solberg – Topic TBA
- Rick Goodenough – Hybridizer’s Perspective
- Dave Wanniger – (Horticulturist in Charge, Boerner Botanic Gardens) – Topic TBA
- Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction

Program details, including topics for each speaker's presentation, will be available 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 help underwrite 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 6 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.**

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

# 2014 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MRHS member  Non-MRHS member

If a non-MRHS member, would you like  
your \$10 surcharge applied to a  
1 year FAMILY membership in the  
Midwest Regional Hosta Society?

YES  NO

## ATTENDEE 2: Address same as Attendee 1

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MRHS member  Non-MRHS member

If a non-MRHS member, would you like  
your \$10 surcharge applied to a  
1 year FAMILY membership in the  
Midwest Regional Hosta Society?

YES  NO

**Registrations postmarked after January 6, 2014 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.**

**Cancellations before January 6, 2014 will be sent a full refund.**

**We will be unable to issue refunds after January 6, 2014.**

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

## 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 [floydmgrogers@gmail.com](mailto:floydmgrogers@gmail.com)



Hosta 'Dark Waters'

| <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              | 3⅛" x 4½"         |
| 1/8 page                      | 45                  | 80               | 3⅛" 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               | 3⅛" x 4½"         |
| 1/8 page                      | 30                  | 50               | 3⅛" x 2"          |

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY**  
**FALL 2013 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 “2013”, 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 2014 convention will be held 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!