

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 77

FALL 2014

WSM REGISTRATION; GREEN BAY CONVENTION IN REVIEW

DUBUQUE, IOWA CONVENTION



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## President's Message

The anticipation of having a regional meeting in Green Bay did not disappoint! I had been looking forward to the event ever since the Green and Gold Society volunteered to be the host, not only because it was a short drive for me, but also because of the opportunity to visit some of the great gardens in the area. Plus, I had been following the progress of the Green Bay Botanical Garden, but had not visited the site for quite a few years. It was a superb meeting highlighted by extraordinary gardens. Thanks to the Green and Gold Hosta Society and convention chairs Patricia Gwidt and Judy Sytsma for the excellent hospitality and garden experiences. A shout out also to the many volunteers who made the event run smoothly. A great time was had by all.

I'm sure Pat, Judy, 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 Dubuque Regional Hosta Society in Dubuque, Iowa July 9-11, 2015 but worry about the future, for no one has committed to host a convention beyond 2015. 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. The Midwest Regional Hosta Society board will help you put on a successful event. 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.

A lot of you have been joining the MRHS Facebook page recently. Currently there are 82 members. Feel free to post to the site, add comments, or ask questions. I'd love to see pictures of your garden or favorite hosta. The more of you that become involved in the site, the better it will become. If you would like to get in on the fun, here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/111529828955070/>. You're never far from a hosta friend!

In closing, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Floyd Rogers for his many years of service to MRHS. He has been serving as editor of *Hosta Leaves*, chairman of the auction, and our webmaster. He leaves big shoes to fill, but fortunately several people have already stepped forward to help. That's what makes this society great; talented people who are not afraid to give of their time and abilities!

Happy Gardening!



Glenn Herold, President  
Midwest Regional Hosta Society

## DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award

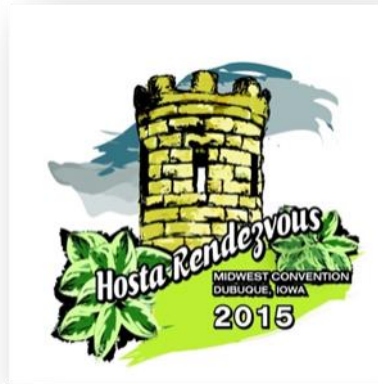
The Montgomery Award, honoring the memory of DeEtta Montgomery, is awarded annually to a member of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society who has earnestly pursued the promotion and use of hostas, and has volunteered their time and talents in such endeavors. This year's award was given to Robert Olson.

Bob has been active in the MRHS practically since its inception. For many, many years he was editor of *Hosta Leaves*, the newsletter of the MRHS. Not only did he solicit articles, but wrote many himself, often using a pseudonym so as not to have his name in print too often. Using his expertise as an editor, he has taken his talents to a higher level, currently serving as editor of the *Hosta Journal*.

Bob has served as an officer at the local, regional, and national level and rarely misses a regional or national meeting. Annually he also braves the often treacherous drive from Minneapolis to Chicago in January to attend the Winter Scientific Meeting. There are few people in the hosta society that would be labeled as an expert in the field. Bob Olson is one of them and does not hesitate to share his knowledge with others. He is a great representative of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and is very deserving of receiving the award. It is an honor to present him with the Montgomery Award.



# MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION



**DUBUQUE, IOWA  
JULY 9-11 2015**

The Dubuque Regional Hosta Society invites you to Rendezvous with us for a weekend of Hosta and Friendship. Mark your calendars NOW to reserve the dates and join us here along the river.

We will open the event with an Optional Dinner Cruise on board the Spirit of Dubuque on Thursday evening. Friday will feature speakers and our Hosta Leaf Show. We plan an evening tour of the Hosta Glade at the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden and a BBQ dinner.

The Hosta Seed Growers group will also sponsor a Seedling Show. This is great event and a time when you can show off your prized seedlings. This event will be similar to the one at Nationals in Cedar Rapids in 2014.

Saturday we will get you on your way to tour several lovely gardens. Some you may have seen at our convention in 2004, but as gardens go they are ever changing and will definitely delight you.

For hotel reservations contact The Holiday Inn Dubuque @ 563-556-2000. Be sure to mention the MRHS Hosta Convention to get the reserved rate of \$124.00. The Hotel is located in the heart of Downtown Dubuque, just blocks from Americas River at the Port of Dubuque and the National River Museum and Aquarium.

Watch for updates, schedules and registration information on the MRHS website.

You can also reach us at [drhs4@hotmail.com](mailto:drhs4@hotmail.com) or contact Cheryl Hird 563-557-1535 [chird47@gmail.com](mailto:chird47@gmail.com).



**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget versus Actual**

1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

<b>Category</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
Convention	\$6,002.82	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Donation	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Income-Interest	\$118.58	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership 2013	\$2,270.00	\$1,660.00	\$0.00
Membership 2014	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
Total Income	\$10,091.40	\$7,660.00	\$7,600.00
Awards	(\$147.77)	\$0.00	(\$150.00)
Grant	(\$5,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)	(\$2,000.00)
Miscellaneous	(\$69.21)	(\$300.00)	(\$100.00)
Newsletter	(\$1,683.43)	(\$3,000.00)	(\$2,000.00)
Internet Site	(\$191.52)	(\$225.00)	(\$200.00)
Winter Scientific 2013	(\$3,985.50)	(\$3,000.00)	\$0.00
Winter Scientific 2014	<u>\$2,250.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>(\$4,000.00)</u>
Total Expense	<u>(\$8,827.43)</u>	<u>(\$7,525.00)</u>	<u>(\$8,450.00)</u>
Totals	<u>\$1,263.97</u>	<u>\$135.00</u>	<u>-\$850.00</u>
Checking	\$19,264.09		
Mutual Fund	<u>\$23,791.70</u>		
Current Net Worth	<u>\$43,055.79</u>		

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Schroeder  
Treasurer

**Wanted**

**Host Society for the 2016 MRHS Convention. If your local group has never or not recently hosted a convention, please consider doing your part by hosting this one.**

## 2015 American Hosta Society Convention

Bob Solberg is being very mysterious about his plans for this convention. He assures us that we will be surprised. This is what that he is sharing with us at this time:

The dates are June 18-20 in Raleigh, NC at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown. We will have buses!!! Plant Delights and Green Hill Farm will be tour stops as well as several local home gardens.

Any questions can be sent to [HostaBob@gmail.com](mailto:HostaBob@gmail.com).



2014 Garden Hosts  
photo by Mary Vertz

## Meissner's Landscape and Fish Boil in Sturgeon Bay

The 2014 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention began with a Thursday evening bus trip to Meissner Landscape Inc. in Sturgeon Bay, WI, the gateway to the famed Door County peninsula. Along the way, the bus captains gave us a little insight into the geology of the area. Door County is part of the Niagara ridge escarpment, which runs from Niagara Falls, under Lake Michigan, and down the eastern edge of Wisconsin. Very little topsoil sits atop this porous bedrock, making gardening difficult in that area.

The Door peninsula is favored by the moderating temperature effect of Lake Michigan, making it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. This has led to a thriving fruit growing industry. Door County has long been known for its cherry orchards and sweeter fruit wines, but with the introduction of hardier grape cultivars, vineyards and wineries that specialize in dryer varieties of wines have sprouted in recent years.

Meissner's is a full service nursery, meaning that they will design, plant, and maintain your landscape. The grounds of the nursery reflect this. On the site we saw a wide variety of plant and construction materials. Besides having a fine display of well-grown hostas, the Meissner's are also deep into conifers and blend them well with hostas and other perennials. An immaculately maintained vegetable garden, surrounded by a professionally installed stone wall, also graces the grounds.

We feasted on a famed Door County fish boil, consisting of white fish, potatoes, onions, and carrots, all boiled together in a large pot over an open fire. (Actually, it was done the modern way, with propane, rather than wood!) Personally, I've eaten it prepared both ways, and I couldn't taste the difference! Those who had never experience a fish boil before were surprised by the bones, but quickly adapted to this minor inconvenience.

This is a nursery and, yes, there were plants to buy. Besides a wide variety of hostas, there were perennials and a great selection of rare, unusual, conifers. After loading the hatch of the bus, we continued our conversations and made new friends on the one hour ride back to Green Bay. It was a great way to start a fantastic weekend.



submitted by Glenn Herold



## Tom and Pat Kaster Garden



Tom and Pat's garden has evolved as many of our gardens have. First came a big vegetable garden and no trees. Then came the trees, and when they got big there was not enough light to grow veggies so the logical thing to do was grow Hosta.

In the beginning they started with plants from their neighbors and it grew from there. They soon discovered that there were more than just a few green- and white-edged Hosta. Club plant sales and their first convention in Minneapolis got them on their way.

Their garden is delightfully serene; a blend of plant life including Hosta, daylilies, pulmonaria, ferns, and heuchera along with many unique trees and shrubs.

I was impressed by the way the color is interspersed in their garden. I especially liked the *Hosta* 'Cathedral Windows' that brightened the corner of the garden. *H.* 'Alex Summers', the huge *H.* 'Krossa Regal', the nice yellow edged *H.* 'Tamborine' and the huge *H.* 'Squash Casserole' (hmm!!! maybe Bob is right, that is not 'Squash Casserole' I have growing in my garden!! It sure doesn't look like this.)

Of course you couldn't leave the garden without looking at the very large *H.* 'Embroidery' just behind the house. Pat's favorite is *H.* 'Fair Maiden' and Tom's is *H.* 'On Stage'.



Martagon Lilies



As usual, I enjoyed the variety of garden art and statuary tucked in between the plants to set the spiritual theme of the garden.

As I was talking to Pat she mentioned that when their mother was still with them, they would take her out into the garden. She would sit there in the middle of the beauty of the garden and all the birds and smile. "You have your own little paradise."





*H. 'Tamborine'*



*H. 'Embroidery'*

All of those who were at the convention enjoyed this garden. Thank you to Tom and Pat for opening your garden to us.

submitted by Cheryl Hird



*H. Grand Prize*



*H. 'Aristocrat'*



## Russ and Bernadine Walske Garden



You turn off the main road and head toward a cul-de-sac on a street lined with tall trees. At the end you find a seven acre wooded lot with a beautiful home and hundreds of hostas. The property was owned by Bernadine's family and 37 years ago they started construction of the home in the woods. Russ said that during construction Bernadine stood in front of each tree to protect it from damage by the contractor.

The front yard greets you with winding beds and hostas and companion plants under the tall trees along with a sign that says "Every garden tells a story", and this is true of this garden. The front two acres are garden with the remaining area still in woods. Over 400 hostas surround the house with most in the back in raised beds made from railroad ties and filled with compost material, thus they are all "fully grown" hostas. At the back of the house *Hosta* 'Embroidery' is a full mature clump. Stone and

wood paths lead to a large clump of *H.* 'Krossa Regal' which anchors the corner of one of the raised beds. There are other well-known hostas in the collection, such as *H.* 'Nancy Gill' and *H.* 'Alex Summers' which we spotted in the garden.

The backyard is a hosta bed with many "forest" plants mixed in while the front yard has expanses of grass with benches where one can sit, relax and enjoy the scene. A bench with a red hat is just waiting for a gardener to sit, relax, put on the hat and stroll the garden. A number of bird houses are mounted around the yard and only an



*H.* 'Alex Summers'



*H.* 'Nancy Gill'

occasional train, across the back of the property, breaks the silence of the woodland. In the front the road dead ends at their home and thus very little traffic disturbs the peaceful atmosphere.

There are numerous containers around the house and a small dog statue sits in the front garden in memory of their long lost companion. Many of the hardscape statues show their faith and the garden shows their love for each other.





**H. 'Lady Isobel Barnett'**



**H. 'Krossa Regal'**

submitted by Rick Schroeder



**H. 'Embroidery'**





## Klass/Rhodes Garden

As convention attendees we visit and view many garden styles. We tour cottage gardens, country gardens, rustic Americana gardens, formal gardens, wildlife havens and more. Many are a riot of color, loads of plant material and a good deal of 'garden art'. They exude a feeling of cheerfulness and exuberance and abundance. Approaching the Klass/Rhode garden we immediately see we are in for a different experience.

The contemporary home with its long low horizontal lines and high pitched roof lines is set dramatically back from the road and framed by a broad expanse of lawn. Two long mulched oases of trees with their strong vertical lines accentuate house lines. All of this sets the back drop for a more contemporary garden design.



Contemporary design is more minimalist than other approaches. Strong lines, repetition of plants, and use of natural materials provide a cohesive and an uncluttered look. Less color is used, less garden art. Foliage plants are the stars of the landscape. Different forms and textured foliage provide the drama and interest. Natural materials used for paths, edging, and mulch create a restful and reflective garden.



Creating this garden was anything but restful, however. The acreage was rocky with a little soil. Tons of rock had to be dug and the areas refilled with top soil. The rock was saved and used as bed liners, path liners, and focal points where the rock was especially interesting. Then the planting began. Of course, before long more digging began as more beds were needed -- because more hostas were desired. Trees were removed to bring more light. The remaining trees have also been limbed way, way up adding more light and also creating strong vertical lines throughout the beds.

The garden created may be contemporary but the hostas are classics and some of the best. Advised by Paul Aden on hostas to purchase while at a Regional Hosta Convention in Madison, Kate has put together a wonderful collection. And, they are superbly grown.

A long hosta bed along the front, repeating the house lines, features many beautiful hosta specimens. *Hosta* 'Guardian Angel' and *H.* 'Golden Sculpture' are just a couple.

*H.* 'Garden Party', one of Kate's favorites, is also outstanding and repeated in the landscape.

Neatly lined hosta beds with specimen hostas along the edge of the yard provide a broad and inviting path to the rear of the home.

Along the back of the home are some beautiful *H.* 'Tokudama Flavocircinalis', *H. sieboldiana* 'Elegans' and *H.* 'Bright Lights'. While color is not a feature of contemporary gardens, the deep red *Dianthus barbatus* is noteworthy and a perfect foil for the *H.* 'Sum and Substance' in a spot that receives a little more sun.



*H.* 'Garden Party'



*H.* 'Tokudama Flavocircinalis'

From the deck you can enjoy morning coffee overlooking the rock-lined beds of hostas, tiered and flowing around the lot. There is a strong contrast of textures between rock and foliage. The rocks used throughout the garden also provide a solidity and strong visual continuity to the whole. Specimen rocks add natural focal points and serve as 'garden art'.

A fire pit and social area in the midst of the beds is ideal for viewing the garden, relaxing and socializing. Stone benches throughout the beds provide contemplative spots to

enjoy the view. Spacious paths of road rock dust or tailings accentuate the beds and provide strolling room to view the gardens up close. Along one path a quiet moss lined pool creates a reflective spot in this quiet garden.

A rock garden bed was in an area close to the fire pit for easy viewing. In a ying and yang way it features sedums and succulents in one area and pulmonaria, hosta and other shade-tolerant plants in another area of the bed.

*H.* 'Reptillian', *H.* 'Iris Frasier' and *H.* 'Spartacus' in various other beds are lovely. A *H.* 'Blue Vision' is tucked into a bed and adds a contrast of color. *H.* 'Love Pat' caught a lot of attention. *H.* 'Summer Serenade', surrounded by painted ferns, is an



*H.* 'Spartacus'





*H. 'Fond Hope'*

eye catcher at the end of a bed. *H. 'Fond Hope'*, a Fisher hosta from 1973, is delightful and not often seen. A bed with smaller hostas has a nice *H. 'Olive Branch'*. *H. 'Lakeside Party Dress'* flowed over the rock in another area.

Typical of contemporary gardens, the hosta are well placed and not crowded so they could be enjoyed individually. Hostas of different sizes, textures and various color and variegation add interest. Brunneria, pulmonaria, heuchera, and ferns are also

used to add depth and texture to the mix. The repetition of these plants through the beds also creates unity in the garden.

Along one side of the lot were large angular beds filled with hosta specimens, ferns, pulmonaria and natives that slowly blended into the wooded boundary of the property. On the other side of the lot rocks are used to landscape and screen the work area.

The Klass/Rhode garden is a quiet respite filled with outstanding hostas. It invites you to slow down, to relax, reflect and to savor the hostas.

submitted by Jean Meyer



*H. 'Olive Branch'*



*H. 'Lakeside Party Dress'*



*H. 'Reptillian'*



## Terry and Mary Vertz Garden



Situated on eight acres, it's a plant lover's paradise. If you need a hosta fix, this is a place to go! From the biggest of the big to the smallest of the small, they've got them all. With over 900 hostas, 700 daylilies, a wide assortment of perennials, shrubs and trees, you can't go wrong!

They also have some beautiful garden art including a metal Venus Flytrap next to a daylily appropriately named 'Venus Flytrap'. There are also sinks, a small tub and a shower that are now homes to mini hostas. They also have a peach

tree that they have had for some time (remember this is the frozen tundra).

They have a wide assortment of over 900 hosta plants so it was very difficult to narrow it down to one or two favorites. However they did have a hardy blue hibiscus called Blue Satin that did catch my eye. Very beautiful blue 4" flowers, about 5' tall, and loaded with flowers.

There are flower beds surrounding the property everywhere. One look around and you know it's eye candy time and there's plenty of it!!



*H. 'Ghost Spirit'*

submitted by Jim Fameree



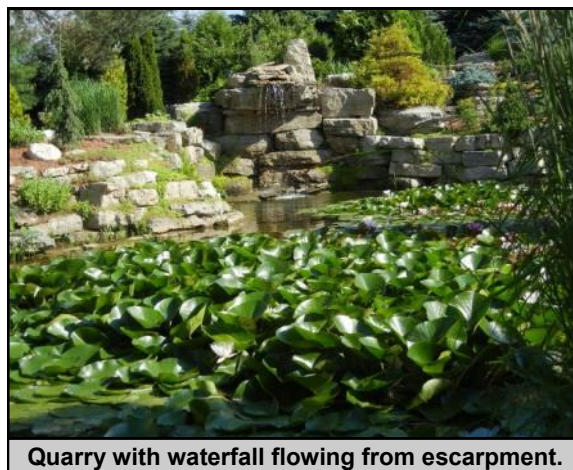
*H. 'Lollapalooza'*



## Carl and Karen VandenHeuvel Garden

Drive through the quiet country roads west of Green Bay to reach the rock hounds' garden. Karen and Carl VandenHeuvel are unassuming folks who love big rocks. Karen talks of Milton and Iceberg – huge boulders - as members of the family. Carl says the rocks speak to him- in a metaphysical way. The rocks tell Carl where and how they want to be placed in the garden. This proper positioning creates a sense of peace and harmony.

Their transformation of a flat alfalfa field to gardens began about 1978. Carl and Karen were high school sweethearts who loved playing in local quarries as children. They decided to recreate that sense of joy in their backyard. After the four hours to excavate the “quarry” they spent over five years creating the enchanting quarry and backdrop escarpment. They created many of the rock walls and expanded garden settings in the 1990's. They love hostas, conifers, and annuals which populate these extensive areas.



Quarry with waterfall flowing from escarpment.



Karen (above right). Below, extensive rock walls with our favorite plantings.



The creation of the VandenHeuvel gardens has been a family affair with Carl, Karen, son Joel, and Karen's mother all contributing their skills. Carl says Joel grew up moving rocks, planting trees, and driving the old International tractor. Karen is the plantsperson and Carl and Joel supplied the labor. Carl and Karen both contributed various art pieces and Karen's mother helps with the weeding (at age 94!). Carl's garden inspiration came from visits to gorgeous gardens including the Paine Art Center and Gardens in nearby Oshkosh, WI. "I think of our garden creation like painting a picture, a picture you can walk in. I draw the lines and Karen colors them in." Karen's love of gardening is rooted in her soul – "nature is good for the soul. Gardening helps lift depression, helps get you out of yourself. You feel closer to God."

A unique aspect of the VandenHeuvel gardens is the metal and stained glass artwork. Both Karen and Carl have created stained





**Stained glass artistry**

glass pieces displayed throughout the gardens. Since Carl is a metal fabricator by trade, he has created the Copper Dome gazebo and several intricate metal gates and decorative pieces. The entry to the hosta garden includes an elaborate ornamental metal archway.

So, the “bones” of this delightful garden are made of stone and steel. The pond and waterfalls provide the lifeblood. And the interesting collection of hostas, dwarf and large conifers, plus the annuals flesh out this artistic picture that you can walk in.

submitted by Ron Asselborn



**Carl demonstrating hand cranking the 1920s Manley Wrecking Crane tow truck boom crane. The Vanden Heuvels used this machine to move and position all 800 tons of stone in their yard. They attached chains around each stone, lifted it with the ‘Wrecker’, then moved the stone (using the 1972 IH tractor attached to the Wrecker (on left) into position. Some of the stones exceeded three tons each.**



**Ornamental archway to the Hosta garden created by Carl, above. Holy’ rock artistry in the Hosta garden, below**





## Green Bay Botanical Garden

Our Friday afternoon featured a tour of one of the best public gardens in Wisconsin followed by a Green Bay tailgate dinner of brats, burgers, and the fixings. As big of a hit as the brats turned out to be, the real highlight of the afternoon was our tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden (GBBG).

The site of the garden, planted as an orchard in 1882 and known locally as the “Old Larsen Orchard”, was leased from the Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in 1988 and opened to the public in 1996. The GBBG’s 47 acres include educational buildings, some dedicated to GBBG use and some as a cooperative effort with NWTC, display gardens, and natural areas. The GBBG is designed to showcase the beauty of northeastern Wisconsin’s four very different seasons. Plants are chosen for the ability to thrive in the Upper Midwest. In addition to plantings, hardscapes and structure are an important part of the garden. Viewers of Packer telecasts have often seen the Stumpf Belvedere as one of the local vignettes.



While we visited splendid gardens devoted to roses, daylilies and conifers, the bulk of our visit was spent in the two areas showcasing hostas. The first is the garden sponsored by the Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin. Located adjacent to the parking lot and under several large Black Hills Oaks, the garden was dedicated in June of 2010 as an American Hosta Society Display Garden. Featured are mature specimens of large and small varieties, hypertufa troughs, and a dry stream bed.

The second, and most impressive, is the King Shade Garden. Dedicated in July of 2011, the garden was created with funds donated by Herb and Gladys King. The sites' varying topography and tree canopy made this a perfect site for shade loving perennials. The King garden includes

about 170 trees and shrubs, 3,500 shade perennials and over 700 hostas of more than 200 varieties (each clearly labeled) including many hybridized by the Kings. A spring tour will reveal over 7,500 flowering bulbs.

The King’s vision of the garden was to provide a venue for quiet reflection, reminiscing of bygone days and acknowledging the history of the site as the Larsen Orchard. Adjacent to the site is the “ruin” of a springhouse. A small stream flows through the garden and under the springhouse replicating the natural cooling used to preserve stored perishables in an age before refrigeration.

With its winding paths and sloping topography, the site allows guests to view the hostas at eye level, a perspective not often experienced. A variety of benches provide places to rest, reflect, or photograph.

Herb and Gladys were also generous enough to open their personal home as part of the Saturday Tour. A review of that garden is included in this newsletter.



Submitted by Kyle Gigot

## Credit Where Credit Is Due: The Paul Aden Registrations

by The American Hosta Society Nomenclature Committee

In April 2012, The American Hosta Society president appointed the AHS Cultivar Origination Commission with this mission:

*Investigate origins of Paul Aden's registrations and report findings to the International Registrar for the Genus Hosta for modifying the Hosta Registry.*

Members were Tom Micheletti (Chair), Warren I. Pollock, W. George Schmid and Mark R. Zilis. Tom is AHS Immediate Past President and a member of the AHS Executive Council. Mark is author of the 1125-page instant classic *The Hostapedia* and the just published 428-page *Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*. George and Warren co-chair the AHS Nomenclature Committee and are members of the AHS Board of Directors. George wrote the classic reference *The Genus Hosta – Giboshi Zoku*.

The Commission's first report was published in the 2012 issue of AHS's *Online Hosta Journal*, pages 5–6. The second and final report was in the 2013 issue, pages 4–5.

The Commission found that many hostas assumed to be creations of Paul Aden, who died in 2010, were originated by Kevin C. Vaughn, now residing in Salem, Oregon, and the late Florence M. Shaw, who lived in Weston, Massachusetts, and died in 1975. Both were prolific hosta hybridizers. Widely known are Kevin's *Hosta* 'Bette Davis Eyes' (registered in 1987) and *H.* 'Tijuana Brass' (1988), and Mrs. Shaw's *H.* 'Birchwood Elegance' (1986) and *H.* 'Birchwood Parky's Gold' (1986).

The Commission has determined alternate originators for fewer than 50 hostas of the more than 200 that Aden registered or were registered for him. For details, please refer to the reports, which also were published by the Hosta Registrar, Kevin P. Walek, in the blue-cover *Registrations 2012* and *Registrations 2013* editions of *The Hosta Journal*.

We will only mention here a few of the altered cultivars that hosta fanciers likely have in their gardens. First and foremost is the popular *H.* 'Sum and Substance'. You'll now be noting that "(F. Shaw - 1980)" is cited after this cultivar name; the original registration date remains. Also, (F. Shaw - 1986) now marks *H.* 'Blue Angel'. Others are *H.* 'Blue Cadet' (F. Shaw - 1974), *H.* 'Big Daddy' (F. Shaw - 1976), *H.* 'Big Mama' (F. Shaw - 1976), *H.* 'Love Pat' (F. Shaw - 1978) and *H.* 'Zounds' (F. Shaw - 1978).

Kevin Vaughn now is credited as originator of *H.* 'Fragrant Bouquet', registered in 1982. We also recognize *H.* 'Fragrant Blue' (K. Vaughn - 1988), *H.* 'Fringe Benefit' (K. Vaughn - 2010), *H.* 'So Sweet' (K. Vaughn - 1986) and *H.* 'Sweetie' (K. Vaughn - 1988).

At this writing the registrar has not yet altered the registrations in the online AHS Hosta Registry. This is a huge task requiring considerable time of a computer programmer. Since many parentages stated by Aden are incorrect, changes will be considerable. We understand that the registrar plans to start the project this summer (2014).

Publications of The American Hosta Society now reflect these changes, for example in the Photo Indexes at the end of recent issues of *The Hosta Journal*. And some nurseries have modified their catalogs and lists, citing K. Vaughn or F. Shaw instead of P. Aden. But, frankly, the conversion process in the industry has been slow. Simply put, folks just are hesitant to make changes to things they've been accustomed to for years and years.

However, we hope that home gardeners will take the lead in modifying relevant plant labels and records. If you have questions, please contact Warren at [giboshiwip@aol.com](mailto:giboshiwip@aol.com) or George at [hostahillwgs@comcast.net](mailto:hostahillwgs@comcast.net).



# Hosta Trends

by Mark Zilis

With a lifetime of experience in the hosta world, Mark Zilis presented a look back at various trends over the past 35 years, as well as giving us a “sneak” peek at what to expect in the future. The following summarizes Mark’s observations about the trends he has experienced during that time and what he foresees for the future.

## Tissue Culture

The use of tissue culture (micropropagation) has become the major hosta propagation technique employed to increase the availability of new hostas throughout the world. Mark traced its start back to a German scientist, Gottlieb Haberlandt in 1902, but it really saw an increase in its use in the 1970’s, as Mark worked with tissue culture in hostas at the University of Illinois. This work became important in the commercial arena in 1978-79, as Mark began commercial work in tissue culture operations at Walters Gardens. Two of the outcomes of tissue culture were to quickly increase large numbers of hosta varieties that were in demand and to make available to home gardeners hosta cultivars that were once extremely rare.

## Hosta Sports

The increase in the large numbers of hosta “sports” has grown over the last twenty years and has been accentuated by the use of tissue culture. A sport is characterized as a mutated plant, with the most common type of mutation being chlorophyll changes into another form, resulting in differing foliage colors and markings. Sports usually take from 3-5 years of being grown on to fully develop. Beginning again in the 1970’s, the development of extensive sport families came into place, including extensive families from *Hosta* ‘Golden Tiara’ and *H.* ‘August Moon’. Mark highlighted the extensive sports of *H.* ‘Gold Standard’, including the seemingly never-ending sport family of *H.* ‘Striptease’. Mark closed this trend discussion by asking the question, “When do we reach the point when enough is enough? He helped answer that question by pointing out that new sports do need to be distinct and that there are poor or unsatisfactory sports that must be sorted out.

## Unusual and Reluctant Sports

This trend showcases the increase in the number of unusual or reluctant sports that have become available in recent years. Cultivars such as *H.* ‘Praying Hands’, *H.* ‘Wheee!’, *H.* ‘Green Angel’, and sports of *H. rectifolia*, such as *H. rectifolia* ‘Ginbuchi Tachi’ (trade name SILVER STAR) and the yellow-veined *H. rectifolia* ‘Amime Tachi’. Mark noted the work of Danny Van Eechaute of Belgium as a “sport fisherman”, including the sport of *H.* ‘Flemish Lion’ from *H.* ‘Lionheart’.

## Development of Ploidy Levels

The expansion of research and hybridization of new hostas with different ploidy levels (more than two sets of chromosomes) represents a new and ever-growing trend. The development of triploids (three sets of chromosomes) and tetraploids (four sets) have opened up new horizons with respect to thicker substance, in both leaves and flowers and the intense difference in foliage color, especially for variegated plants. Polyploid chimeras, where the cell layers have different ploidy levels represents a recent trend and the expanded work of tetraploid hybridizing is part of the future of new hosta cultivars.

## Miniature Hostas

One of the most popular groups of hostas are the size extreme miniatures or “minis”. Desired

for their small size and the ability to incorporate them easily into container and small space gardens, the popularity among the general gardening public exploded with the introduction of the mini *H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'* and its family of “mouse” sports that have followed. The popularity of *H. venusta* (Otome Giboshi) as a top mini species was recognized along with the numerous sports and seedlings that have come from it. With smaller garden spaces and the expanded use of miniature hostas in container gardening, the fascination and adoration of the “minis” will continue to be a hosta trend.

### **Giant Sized Hostas**

At the other end of the size extreme spectrum is the increasing popularity of giant sized hostas. The massive size of both the clump, as well as individual leaf is best exemplified by *H. 'Sum and Substance'*, which makes an impressive statement in the garden. The popularity of giant sized hostas continues to grow, as shown by the ever-expanding number of cultivars available, including a relatively new favorite, *H. 'Empress Wu'*. Never mind that planning its placement is important as the clump size becomes a statement in the garden bed, hosta collectors will continue to find space for such giant-sized plants.

### **Recognizing Distinctive Hosta Flowers & Form**

One of the upcoming trends in hosta hybridizing embraced by a growing number of hybridizers is the increased attention paid to producing more distinctive hosta flowers and flower form. Examples of distinctive flowers and form highlighted include: *H. 'Fujibotan'* possessing double flowers, *H. 'Peacock Feathers'* with extra petals, *H. 'Purple Flush'* with its striped flower petals, and *H. clausa* with its closed flowers. Mark provided a dramatic tease in trends to watch for in hosta flowers with his photo of *H. 'Miracle Lemony'* from Japan, complete with yellow flowers.

### **Purple or Red-Leafed Hostas**

The intense obsession with advancing the hybridization of purple or red-leafed hostas remains a trend that will continue to attract both hybridizers and hosta gardeners alike. Beginning with the trend of red to purple leaf petioles, the current trend is toward advancing that reddish coloration up into the leaf blade. The hybridizing efforts of Bob Solberg were highlighted and recognized along with the prediction to watch for exciting things to come down the road!

### **Hosta Patents**

Beginning with *H. 'Royal Standard'* in 1965, over 83 hostas have been patented with the United States Patent and Trademark Office through December 2013. In effect for 20 years following the date of application, the trend of patenting plants will continue to increase to help provide protection to hybridizers against unauthorized propagation.

### **New Hosta Problems**

Mark concluded his presentation on hosta trends by pointing out that although we as hosta hybridizers and collectors think we have a good working knowledge about hostas, we will continue to uncover new hosta problems, especially in the areas of new hosta diseases and viruses. Staying abreast of these new challenges to hostas will be just as important as keeping up with all of the new hosta varieties and cultivars.

Submitted by Gregg Peterson



## Herb and Gladys King Garden

From front to back, the garden of Herb and Gladys King offers a beautiful mixture of plant material growing in a lush setting. While hostas dominate the landscape under the canopy of maples, oaks, cottonwood, and other hardwoods, hundreds of other hardy perennials beautifully blend into the landscape. Structural elements such as a wooden gazebo, a small bridge, bird baths, metal sculptures, and a stone bench add to the interest of the garden. A large deck overlooks the backyard, giving visitors a tremendous view of this woodland wonderland. A stream that gently flows along one side of the yard provides a soothing element.

The rounded iron trellis in the backyard deserves mention. The ten-foot high structure houses a tree stump from which water flows onto the plants below. The hostas, 'Good as Gold', 'King's Knave', and 'King's Changeling', plus *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' benefit from the added moisture created in this unique setting. Another weathered tree stump can be found at the very back of the garden with hostas and European ginger growing out of it.



All of this comes from a property that had little to offer plant-wise when it was purchased. The backyard contained a single hydrangea and a steep hillside that proved difficult to mow. Then, twenty years ago, a neighbor gave the Kings a few hostas, which they found to be interesting plants. They began terracing the slope in the backyard 'bit by bit' and added more and more hostas.

During the winter of 1997, Herb read an article in *The Hosta Journal* that described how hostas could be propagated by seed. He was intrigued. The following summer, he collected open-pollinated seeds from his specimens of 'Silver Bowl', 'Blue Mammoth', and 'Golden Waffles'. He germinated them under lights the following winter and found it to be fairly easy and a lot of fun. Wanting variegation in his seedling program, he added 'Beatrice', 'Christmas Tree Gala', and 'William Lachman' to the garden. Pretty soon, hundreds of seedlings were being grown and evaluated.



Each year, Herb selects the best 300 to 400 seedlings and offers the rest to eager gar-

deners in a yearly plant sale. After a two to three year evaluation, the best of each crop is given a name. With their last name of “King” and an interest in castles and royalty, it only made sense to start the “King’s” series. Hostas with names such as ‘King’s Lady of Substance’, ‘King’s Candlelight’, ‘King’s Faithful Servant’, ‘King’s Gentleman of Means’, ‘King’s Damsel in Green’, ‘King’s Woodland Dragon’, and ‘King’s Duke of Hillside’ are found alongside such classics as ‘Sun Power’, ‘Paul’s Glory’, ‘Dorset Blue’, ‘Fringe Benefit’, ‘Leola Fraim’, ‘Rainforest Sunrise’, ‘Pizzazz’, *H. montana* ‘Aureomarginata’, and ‘Fragrant Dream’. Only one in the series, ‘King’s Black Knight’, a deep green seedling of ‘Grand Master’, has been registered to this point, though many others are certainly worthy. ‘King’s Sovereign Lady’, a huge, vase-shaped mound of bright gold foliage, draws attention to the back corner of the garden. Not far away grows ‘King’s Favourite’, a medium-sized mound of yellow-edged foliage. ‘King’s Lady Astor’, located near the driveway in the front yard, offers attractive gold-margined leaves in a mid-sized mound.



H. ‘King’s Black Knight’

After viewing the abundant vegetation on the King property, it is not surprising to learn that several factors play into the success of the garden. To create the terraces, Herb and Gladys hauled thousands of pails of compost from a Green Bay collection facility to form each raised bed. They water the garden frequently, though their high water table from a few underground springs creates wetland conditions in parts of the garden at certain times of the year. Herb also believes in heavy fertilization as he applies 80 to 100 lbs. of 10-10-10 dried fertilizer to each bed and 50 lbs. of slow release fertilizer a few weeks later. During the season, water soluble fertilizer is also added.

Their hostas respond well to the combination of large amounts of water and fertilizer along with the dappled sunlight that the garden receives. The companion plants that grow alongside the hostas also do well. Such flowering perennials as hellebores, Japanese primrose, astilbe, brunnera, ligularia, columbine, and corydalis, hardy ferns (maidenhair, ostrich, royal, interrupted, and cinnamon), and ground covers (*Lamium*, wild ginger, and European ginger) thrive under the fertile, moist conditions. Many of them have self-seeded and now fill the spaces between the hostas.

With every bed completely occupied by plants making expansion no longer an option, the Kings have donated many of their best cultivars and seedlings to the Green Bay Botanical Garden. The King Shade Garden will be a legacy that everyone will enjoy for many years to come.

Gladys feels that the garden keeps them young and summed up the experience of creating their hosta wonderland simply as “having fun”. Enough said!!

submitted by Mark Zilis





**A few of the Leaf Show winners  
Gregg Peterson, Kim Greene, Cheryl Hird, and Cindy Tomashek**



**2014 MRHS Convention**  
**'Hostas by the Bay' Show Results**  
**Green Bay, WI June 28, 2014**

**Show Chairs – Cathy Lindeman & Nancy Gardebrecht**

**Show Awards**

**Division I – 315 entries**

Best of Show – Section III Class 6a, Gregg Peterson

Best Seedling or Sport – Section VIII Class 3, Mark Mulzer

Sweepstakes – Cindy Tomashek, 17 blue ribbons

Section I – Class 5b, *H.* 'Leading Lady', Cheryl Ward

Section II – Class 1, *H.* 'Sails Ho', Kim Greene

Section III – Class 6a, *H.* 'Crested Surf', Gregg Peterson

Section IV – Class 4b, *H.* 'Crested Surf', Cindy Tomashek

Section V – Class 6a, *H.* 'Holy Mouse Ears', MJ Kapla

Section VIII – Class 3, 6933, Mark Mulzer

Section XII – Class W, *H.* 'Winter Lightening', Sally Stewart

**Division III – 22 entries Divisions I-VII**

Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect, Sue Cravillion

**Division VI**

Artistic Design - Class I, Hostas by the Bay, Cathy Lindeman







photos by  
Mary Vertz



## **Winter Scientific Meeting**

### **Sponsored by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society**

**When:** January 17, 2015

Continental Breakfast at 7:30 A.M. Conclusion at 4:30 P.M.

**Where:** Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Naperville, Illinois  
1120 East Deihl Road, Naperville, IL [Directions Facility](#)

**Hotel Accommodations:**

Hilton Hotel, Lisle, IL [Hotel Website](#)

Room Rate - \$79 per night (Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17, 2015)

Reservation Deadline - 12-26-2014

**Registration Form:** next page

**WSM Topics:** We have six speakers, Bob Solberg, Mark Zilis, Jeff Miller, Rod Kuenster (Hybridizer's Perspective), Tom Micheletti and Glenn Herold, for the 2015 WSM. All will be entertaining and informative. WSM will include three plenary sessions and three breakout sessions that will be repeated twice so attendees can choose to attend two of the three breakouts.

Continental breakfast, refreshments for breaks throughout the day, a hot lunch as well as a seed auction will round out the day. The Northern Illinois University Conference Center in Naperville will provide us with ground floor space including an airy atrium and outstanding spaces for eating and socializing as well as high-tech meeting spaces.

**More information:** Check <http://midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml> for updates.

## **Wanted**

**Host Society for the 2016 MRHS Convention. If your local group has never or not recently hosted a convention, please consider doing your part by hosting this one.**



# MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2015 WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Sat., January 17, 2015 Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Naperville, IL and Hilton, Lisle, IL

Hospitality will be on Friday and Saturday Night at the Hilton. Hilton Room rate is \$79.00 per night (Friday and Saturday night), see at bottom for details. Deadline for reservations is 12/26/2014.

Check in Fri. afternoon at the Hilton, from 3 to 5 PM and Sat. morning at the NIU Conference Center from 7 to 8 AM.

The Winter Scientific meeting will be held at the NIU Conference Center, just a few blocks from the Hilton. Directions will be provided at check in. Continental breakfast will be at NIU from 7:30 to 10:30 AM. The Meeting will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM-no food in meeting rooms.

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

Make a copy of this registration form for your records. Confirmations will be done by email.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ If a non-MRHS member, would you like  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ your \$10 surcharge applied to a  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year FAMILY membership in the MRHS?  
 YES  NO

## ATTENDEE 2: Address same as Attendee 1

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

**Registrations postmarked after January 10, 2015 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before January 3, 2015 will be sent a full refund. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 3, 2015.**

Number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$60= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of non-members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$70= \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of late registrations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10= \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS

Mail your registration and check to:

Barbara Schroeder, MRHS Treasurer 1819 Coventry Dr. Champaign, IL 61822

Questions about registration? Contact Barbara at MRHS.HOSTA@gmail.com or phone: 217-369-0927

NIU Naperville Conference Center, 1120 East Diehl Rd, Naperville, IL 60563

Hilton Lisle/Naperville, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, Illinois, 60532, TEL: 1-630-505-0900 (Group Code CMHS or Midwest Hosta Society Winter Meeting)



Green Bay Botanical Garden





## 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 Mary Vertz for publishing deadlines and more details. (920) 336-7678 or [mavertyz@att.net](mailto:mavertyz@att.net)



*Acanthus* 'Tasmanian Angel'

<b>Full Color Ads:</b>			
Size	Single Issue	Full Year	Dimensions
Full page	\$275	\$475	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	175	300	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	90	155	3⅛" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3⅛" x 2"
<b>Black &amp; White Ads:</b>			
Size	Single Issue	Full Year	Dimensions
Full page	\$100	\$175	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	55	95	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	40	70	3⅛" x 4½"
1/8 page	30	50	3⅛" x 2"



**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY**  
**FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER**

**Barb Schroeder**  
**1819 Coventry Dr.**  
**Champaign, IL 61822**  
[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 “2014”, 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 Barb Schroeder. Next summer’s 2015 convention will be held in Dubuque, IA. 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!