

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

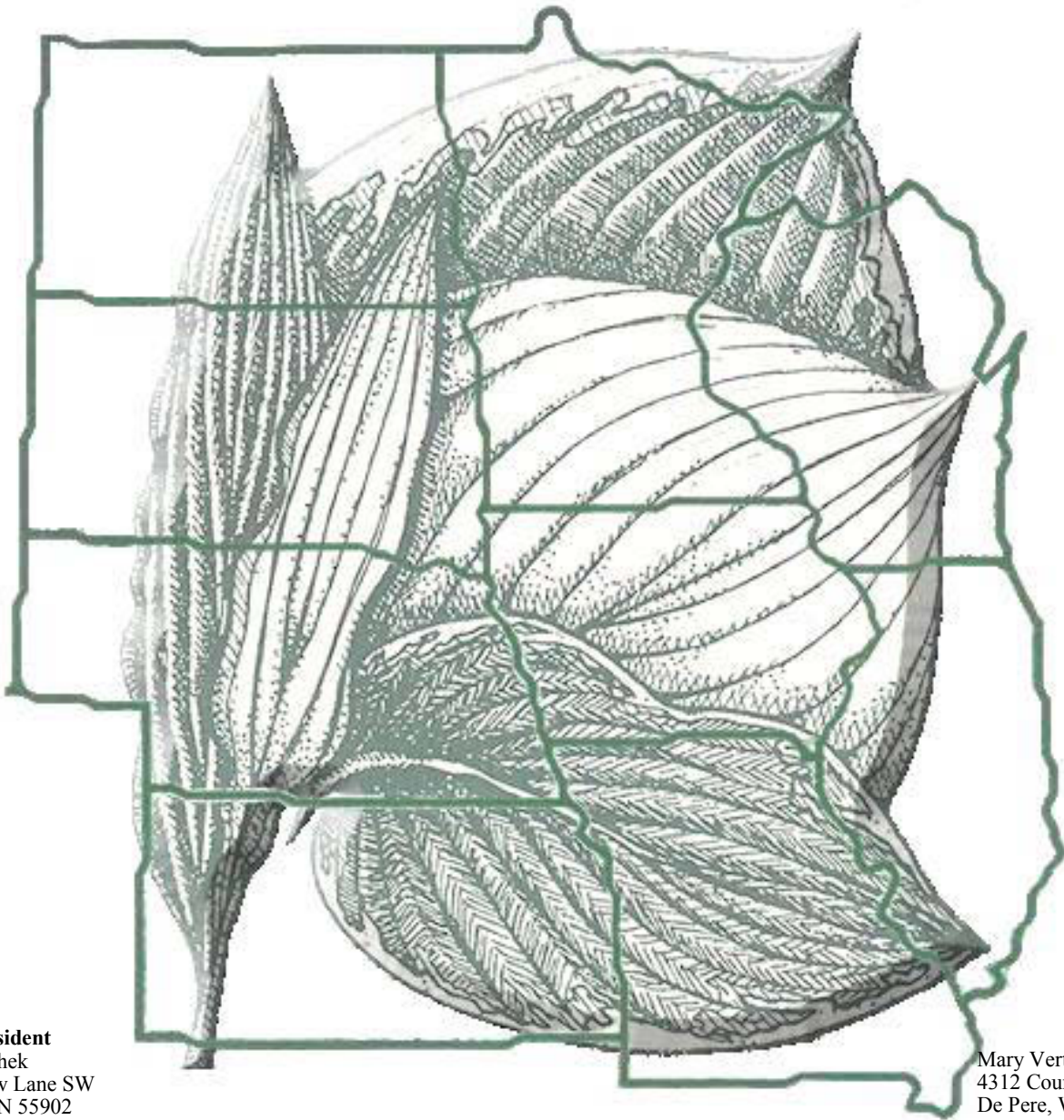
# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 81

FALL 2016

WC REGISTRATION; CHAMPAIGN IN REVIEW

LENEXA, KANSAS CONVENTION



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## President's Message

It's been a soggy summer here in Minnesota and many other parts of the Midwest. Fortunately, the weather was grand during "Grand Prairie Hostas – Revisited" in Champaign, Illinois. In fact, everything was grand: the garden tours exceeded expectations with the great variety of hostas and other plant material, loads of inspiring design, and well-planned routes; vending offered up the hoped-for new varieties of hostas and other items and the Hosta Seed Growers competition drew a crowd and was much appreciated.

Overall, the convention had a very relaxed atmosphere...drive yourself tours have not only gained acceptance, but have become the preferred method of touring gardens for many of our members. Kudos to Barb Schroeder and Ruth Walker, Co-Chairs, and the rest of the planning committee, garden owners, speakers, volunteers, vendors and auction personnel and donors who made this a flawless and highly enjoyable convention.

Congratulations, also, to the DeEtta Montgomery Award recipient Lou Horton. Lou's commitment to advancing interest in hostas and dedication to local and regional organizations cannot be overstated. He sets a high bar for volunteerism and is just plain a class act...thanks, Lou, for all of your contributions of time and experience and especially for providing a great example for us all.

During the less exciting portion of the annual business meeting, By-Laws revisions were approved (as published in prior communications) and have been posted on the MRHS web site. If you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you, please contact me.

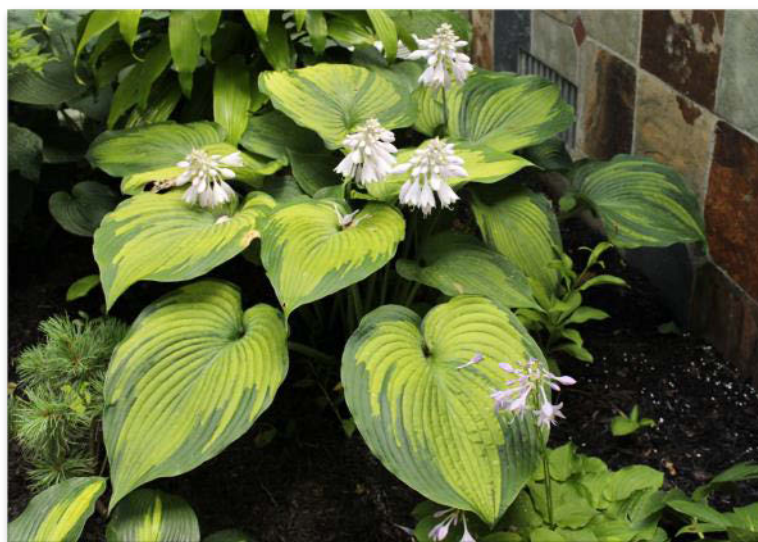
Next summer's convention may seem far away, but please mark your calendar for "Hostas in the Land of Ahhhs" in Lenexa, Kansas, **June 22-24, 2017**. Amazing gardens and events await everyone at the end of the yellow brick road...it's guaranteed to be packed with everything we love about conventions – in a brand new venue! The 2017 convention only came about because Rob Mortko and Bob Saathoff took it on when no local society had stepped forward and MRHS was facing the possibility of not having a convention. When the auspicious task of finding gardens and volunteers sank in, Rob and Bob made a pitch to the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners for assistance and they came to the rescue...in droves. The MG's have been deeply involved in just about every phase of the convention planning process since their goal is gaining valuable experience in hosting a convention. While the MG's are "sponsoring" the convention and doing the lion's share of the work, they have agreed to forego any share in convention proceeds. Having so much involvement by non-MRHS members is certainly unconventional, but out-of-box thinking has crafted a convention for us all to enjoy – be sure to give them hearty thanks when you meet them!

We are slowly making our way into fall, which means winter isn't far off and, for me, one of the brightest spots in winter is the MRHS Winter Conference. Winter Conference 2017 will be in the same venue as last year, NIU Conference Center/Hampton Inn Naperville, on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**. Check the MRHS web site periodically for updates on speakers and registration information.

Hopefully you are also looking forward to Winter Conference as the next opportunity to

gather with Hosta friends and hear the latest news about hostas or related topics that might spark some new ideas to incorporate in your garden. If you haven't attended WC in the past, be sure to check out the schedule of speakers and topics posted on the web site (as soon as finalized). MRHS offsets some of the expense to keep this event attractively affordable, so get it on your agenda and invite a friend. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Naperville in January!

Rooted in the Midwest,  
Cindy Tomashek  
MRHS President  
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# The DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award for 2016

## Lou Horton

Cindy Tomashek presented Lou Horton the DeEtta Montgomery Award at the MRHS convention in Champaign in July. The award recognized his sustained contributions to the Society. He was lauded for his promotion of hostas and his educational efforts to further the use of hostas through multiple channels over many years.

Lou's commitment to volunteerism and community service brought him to positions of leadership in MRHS and in the Northern Illinois Hosta Society. He served as president of MRHS from 2007 to 2010. Previously he served as vice-president of MRHS.



He also served as president of the NIHS from 2003 to 2011.

For the past six years Lou has spearheaded the MRHS Winter Conference (formerly the Winter Scientific Meeting) and has consistently presented a program of outstanding speakers appealing to hostaphiles of varying levels of experience. He was instrumental in bringing the MRHS convention to the Chicago area in 2008 and again in 2013. His leadership and dedication helped ensure the success of both conventions.

For over 15 years Lou served as a Master Gardener with the University of Illinois Extension DuPage County unit. He regularly presents programs to gardening groups where he shares his love of hostas. Lou is an active member of the West Chicago Garden Club

and maintains an extensive hosta display garden at his West Chicago home. His garden, Acorn Hollow, has repeatedly been a tour garden for local and regional garden walks. Lou's garden features some of the largest hostas seen and most visitors leave with more hostas added to their wish lists. For over 10 years Lou maintained a website featuring his hosta garden that included many educational articles. He sold large

divisions of newer hostas at his home on two sale dates each year that exposed customers to many new varieties which helped support his hosta habit.

Lou was a leader in the effort of the NIHS to create a hosta garden at Cantigny Park, a huge privately supported garden in Winfield, Illinois. He negotiated an agreement with park administrators and engaged NIHS member volunteers to donate plants and maintain the garden. His goal was to promote appreciation of hostas among park visitors. Recently, the Cantigny Park garden was designated as an AHS National Hosta Display Garden and will be dedicated next year.

After this year Lou is giving up hosta sales in order to spend more time on his first love, raising, exhibiting and judging waterfowl and chickens. Lou also expects to be able to devote more time to maintaining his personal garden. He continues to manage the NIHS annual Sponsor Plant program. Each year, he selects a vendor and chooses newer garden-worthy hostas to offer to the NIHS members.

Lou is generous with his time and advice. He has mentored many gardeners. He is always willing to answer questions. His plant identification skills and his knowledge of many plants' cultural requirements are remarkable. Many hosta enthusiasts credit Lou's presentations and visits to his garden for stimulating their interest in growing hostas.

*Submitted by Mark Rekoske*

**Join in on some winter 'Hosta' talk and catch up with friends.**

**Plan on attending the Midwest Regional Hosta Society**

**Winter Conference, January 21st**

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

The Winter Conference again this year is having a seed auction. It has become quite popular. If you have seeds you are willing to donate so more people can enjoy growing new seedlings please send them to: **Barbara Schroeder 1819 Coventry Dr Champaign Illinois 61822**. Please clean them and put cross and approximate number of seeds on the packet. Thank you all.



## MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2017 WINTER CONFERENCE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

**Sat., January 21, 2017 Northern Illinois University Conference Center and Hampton Inn, Naperville, IL**

Hospitality will be on Friday and Saturday Night at the Hampton. Hampton Room rate is \$78.00 per night (Friday and Saturday night), see at bottom for details. Deadline for reservations is 12/23/2016.

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

The Winter Conference meeting will be held at the NIU Conference Center, just across the street from the Hampton. 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 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MRHS member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the MRHS?
STATE/ZIP _____	
PHONE _____	
EMAIL _____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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

NAME _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MRHS member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	If a non-MRHS member, would you like your \$10 surcharge applied to a 1 year FAMILY membership in the MRHS?
STATE/ZIP _____	
PHONE _____	
EMAIL _____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**Registrations postmarked after January 9, 2017 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before January 3, 2017 will be sent a full refund. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 3, 2017.**

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  
Hampton Inn, 1087 East Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois, 60563, TEL: 1- 630-505-1400 (when calling mention MRHS or code HOS to get the discounted rate).

## Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

### Midwest Hosta Society

2017 Kansas City, Kansas

2018 Peoria, Illinois

### American Hosta Society

2017 Indianapolis, Indiana

2018 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2019 Green Bay, Wisconsin

**Sit back and enjoy a review of the 2016 Midwest Hosta Society Convention in Champagne, IL.**





## Seedling Competition Best of Show





## Garden of Mary Ann and Dan Metz

By Tom Micheletti (Photos too)

Mary Ann is the gardener Dan is the self-proclaimed lawn man, and there isn't much lawn for Dan to take care of. This garden is chock full of a wide variety of interesting perennials, annuals, and tropical plants. Coming upon the house we were greeted by an oversize inflatable bright pink flamingo. He was the bouncer for the evening checking id's. The Metz's were gracious enough to open their garden and home to attendees on Thursday evening for a wine and cheese get together. While there was more to eat than cheese, there was a tasty assortment of various Hors d'oeuvres, plus a selection of wines and some beer for us non wine drinkers, as well as nonalcoholic beverages. Dan actually allowed the food to be set up in his pristine garage. The floor is a decorative black and white squares mimicking tile. The garage looked more like an extension of a room in the house it was so clean. The cars had to be parked outside on the driveway! Yikes! Good thing the weather was cooperative.



While difficult to photograph the garden with so many people it was an opportunity to preview it before returning on Saturday as it was one of the gardens on tour. Thursday evening turned out to be an opportunity to connect, and visit with friends and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Upon return on Saturday there were far fewer people in the garden and it was possible to take many photos of all the interesting features this garden had to offer. Upon first glance I noticed all the many different and interesting containers used in the garden. Mary Ann has scoured the country finding a large variety of interesting and colorful containers. Many contain equally interesting plants that add color and texture



to the garden. Her encyclopedic knowledge of plants has allowed her to select the most interesting varieties to her garden. There is color in the garden in all seasons with flowers as well as colorful foliage. While there were some interesting plants in flower, foliage was the main player in generating color. Not to be out-done however were the many containers which added spots of color as well.

This garden feels larger than it is because the way plants are used

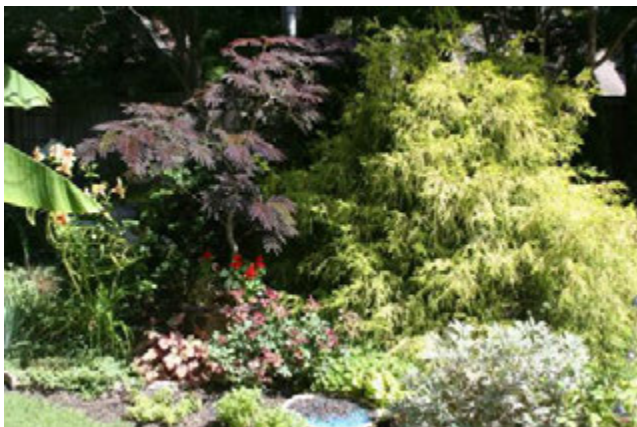
to create rooms. There were several areas that included benches for sitting and enjoying the view of the surrounding plantings. In the front yard hostas are the main player under a large oak tree. The back yard holds a wider selection of interesting plants interspersed with hostas. The deck overlooked the entire garden and had many different seating options. Each seating area had a great view of the garden and was a relaxing area to enjoy the ambience. There was also a pond with a waterfall providing a relaxing sound and even more interest with different aquatic plants.



Mary Ann works at a local nursery, Prairie Gardens. No pay actually comes home with her, only plants. She is constantly changing the garden when she finds a new plant. Dan has come to realize a garden is never static and that change is good! I'm glad we were able to visit the garden at this time in its evolution. It will be interesting to come back and see how it has changed in the future.

The Metz's ended their write up in the convention handbook by saying "Please enjoy!"

Thank you Mary Ann and Dan for opening your garden for us we did enjoy it!





# The Garden of Stan and Penny Cukay Conifers, Rocks, Perennials, and Hostas

By Barry Ankney (Photos too)  
Washburn, IL

I was fortunate to visit the garden of Stan and Penny Cukay for the second time during the Champaign Convention. The first visit came in the summer of 2015, when our local society embarked on a field trip to Champaign to enjoy the gardens and do some shopping. During that trip, the Champaign area had been “blessed” with 4 inches of rain the previous day. Our bus forded roadways through the corn and bean fields leading to Stan and Penny’s home.

This time around, the weather had been much more cooperative, just a bit warm and humid. Heat could not deter the enthusiasm I heard expressed by visitors to the garden. Stan and his crew have put together a garden that rivals any arboretum. Stan has a passion for conifers. Stan has a love of stone for use as hardscape. Stan has a tremendous variety of perennials through the garden. Oh, and yes, Stan has hosta!



The conifers in this garden are, in my opinion the centerpiece of the display. The photo at left shows part of the west side of the garden. A variety of landscaping edging throughout the garden adds interest to the design. Stan has been collecting his conifers for many years.

The use of reclaimed materials in the garden was quite interesting. My favorite example was the fireplace surround in the east section of the garden.

Daylilies, hostas, grasses, and conifers surround the stone. When viewed directly from the front, the fireplace surround frames several large hosta specimens.





Other areas of the garden were divided into “rooms” that each had their own personality. Some featured garden benches, while others had water features. A particular favorite of mine included a bench, where if you sat you looked down the hallway through mature conifers.



Stan and Penny have created an oasis in the middle of corn and soybean country. As a side note, they have their horses housed at a building that is about a quarter of a mile across the fields to the south. At that location, they have an extensive collection of daylilies.



*Part of the hosta display in the front.*

# Wellman Garden

By Lisa Putnam

Across the street from the golf course, where Prospect turns to Country Lane, you'll discover the Wellman estate. You'll be greeted by a blaze of color that draws you to the Wright inspired home and garden. The hostas are well established in mass planting, identifying the classics, grown to perfection. The backyard beckons for a party with vista's of the dry river bed and pergola. I loved watching the keeping of getting your ducks in a row. The bubbling rocks were a close 2nd choice.



Duck photo by Lisa





# Palmisano Garden

By Ed Schultz (Photos too)

After a busy Friday and a much needed nights' rest, Jean and I proceeded to the last stop on our Saturday agenda. Thankful for a good map and set of directions we arrived at our last tour garden in Urbana, the Palmisano garden.

Since I have a love/hate relationship with Japanese maples; love to buy them, hate to lose some of them in our zone 4B gardens, I immediately noticed three maples as they varied widely in structure and color. The afternoon sun highlighted a reddish/orange specimen while a robust seven trunked specimen anchored the front yard. Garden entry was under a trellis burdened with luxurious growth of fall blooming clematis. Once through this dark portal, things really opened up.



Adjacent to the home was a cozy patio area with a small circular bed of small hosta, heuchera and other plants. This bed was lightly shaded by a delicate Japanese maple.

The main garden had ample high shade provided by three mature trees. Two high, limbed-up Bald Cypress anchored either side of the yard but not to be out done by an outstanding Pin Oak. The border of the garden was wood fenced but the straight fence lines were softened and often hidden by plantings of bushes or small trees.

The main garden had ample high shade provided by three mature trees. Two high, limbed-up Bald Cypress anchored either side

Hosta specimens were placed strategically so that color and variety were never monotonous. Specimens of hosta and numerous companion plants were pristine. Truly the sign of a carefully tended garden.

While there were numerous hosta that merit further attention due to their size, placement and condition, I will point out two. H. 'Stained Glass' because of its huge size, placement and pristine leaf color and condition was not to be overlooked.



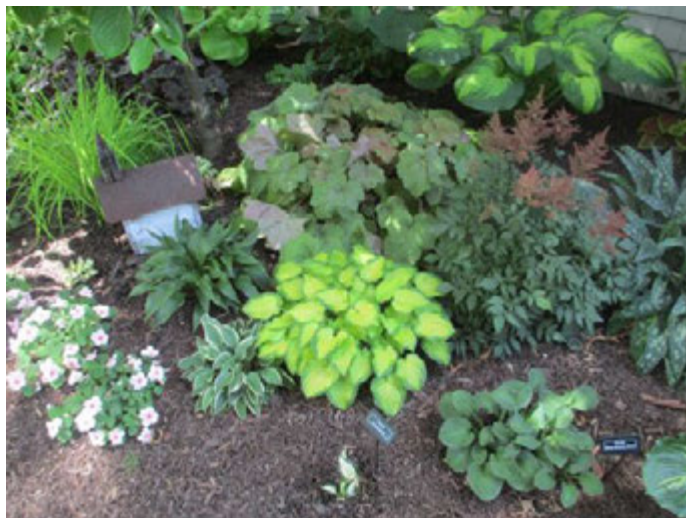


H. 'Rainbow's End' was also stunning in its placement, size and contrasting leaf color.

A number of cultivars that had been recently added were growing well and were well on their way to make their impact in the future; two of these were H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' and H 'Fire Works'.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the various blooming perennials and annuals that added bright, spots of color. The combination of oranges and pinks repeated it's self throughout the garden.

There really did not seem to be enough time to sit down, relax and soak in this tidy, well planned, shade garden. We left refreshed at the end of a long day.



Thank you Palmisanos.



Bottom photos by Mary Vertz

## Lash Garden

By Nancy Gardebrecht (Photos too)

Arriving at the Lash's home we could see that we were in for a garden treat! A decorative sign greeted us at the entry garden that said "Friends are the flowers in the garden of life". In this garden we found a large H'. Sum & Substance with many other hostas encircling a large fairy statue that sat in the middle watching visitors come and go. The decorative floral border was white and coral impatiens.



To the right of this garden was a slightly raised bed garden that had a splendid hosta border all around it. In the middle we found a whimsical village of fairy houses, a fairy tree house and even a fairy farm.



A stone pathway links all of the small houses together and the fairies play amongst the mini hostas.





Going to the backyard through a hosta path we stopped to remark about the unusual color hibiscus of yellow and orange!



Then as we made the corner and were surprised by all the color! A beautiful perennial garden filled with pink, purple, greens with splash of yellows and reds. A Victorian bird house and succulent planter filled in the garden. As we looked past all of this was a large pond with a seating area to enjoy the view!



Making our way back to the front through the patio we see more color and a large hydrangea, hostas in containers, a picture frame planted, tea for two, a ladies dress planted with succulents and then more hostas.



These gardens of hosta and color, with a little whimsy are sure to inspire us!



## Barb and Rick Schroeder's Garden

By Penelope A M Bocelli (Photos too)

Our gardens are designed to reflect our personality, and show a bit about who we are and what we enjoy in addition to gardening. This is evident in the Schroeder's Garden.

Barb had one of her many beautiful quilts, a collage of flowers with a hosta border, displayed on their deck, and Rick's railroad hobby was displayed with memorabilia in the form of a railroad crossing sign, a numbered 'track' sign and crossing lights.



This beautiful garden holds over 390 cultivars of hosta, and 260 different varieties of other plants. The hostas that caught my eye, were *H.* 'Praying Hands' in an artistically created upright free-form red 'winged' hypertufa pot that compliments the plant,



*H.* 'Miss Mitzi' (in honor of one of their beloved 'Bichon Frisse's) planted in a bright red pot which was placed in a raised stand over a *Dryopteris* Shield fern 'Cristata', *H.* 'Stitch in Time' across from the tropical garden, and *H.* 'Gunther's Prize' next to the variegated *Torulosa* juniper.





The large tree on the right side of their driveway, near the porch, is *Betula nigra* 'Cully' Heritage River Birch. The peeling bark adds texture to the garden, and shares its space with a rock water feature.

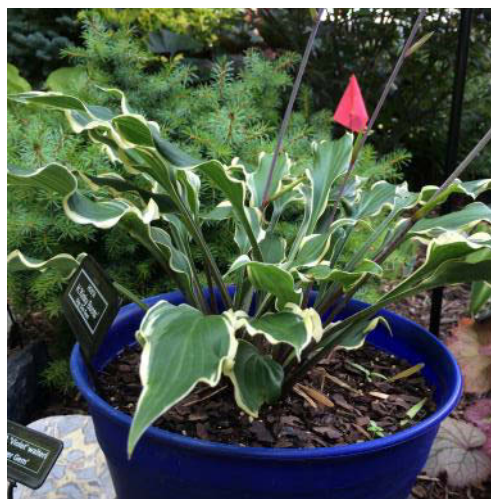


There is a permanent hosta in the Schroeder garden that lasts through the winter. *H.* 'Stainless Steel' is a beautifully crafted stainless steel hosta. Another feature in the garden, is a stainless steel fountain in the shape of hosta leaves.



A special addition to the Shroeder's garden, were some hostas that were provided by Don Dean, President of the AHS and renowned hybridizer. Some are not on the market yet, and were designated by red flags. My favorites included *H.* 'Kinky Boots' (which is not yet on the market - it has medium blue-green foliage with creamy white marginal variegation. The leaves are lightly corrugated, deeply wavy, lightly twisted and glaucous on top.), and *H.* 'Evening Blush' – has pointed blue leaves with rich purple petioles that forms a vase-shaped clump.

The 2017 convention plant from Randy Goodwin, *H.* 'Indy Fan Favorite', (greenish yellow, heavily rippled, and slightly shiny on top) was also tucked into their garden.



Barb's Mouse Trap, a large shallow round container, holds sixteen of the Mouse Ears hostas.



It's cleverly designed and Barb wisely has them planted in small containers and set into the larger pot. We all know that small hostas like to be contained in small pots.

Photo by Mary Vertz



There is a sun garden along the side of the house that holds their tropical plants and several daylilies. On that garden wall you will find a framed mirror which adds another dimension to the garden. Looking beyond the sun garden, toward the front of the house, is a lovely specimen of a Japanese Maple, Illini Sunrise (a **rare** find), that has a gorgeous red color throughout the spring, summer, and fall.



I have to mention the conifers throughout their garden, as well. The first one seen in their front yard, is *Picea omorika* (Serbian Spruce) 'Pendula Snezna', which towers above the border of hostas, heuchera, and other foundation plantings. In their back yard, as you enter on your left, is a Weeping European Larch 'Pendula', which resembles an evergreen conifer, but actually loses its needles over the winter. Other conifers worth noting are, *Picea pungens* Colorado Blue Spruce 'Glauca Globosa', *Chamaecyparis obtusa* False Cypress 'Lemon Twist', *Chamaecyparis pisifera* Sawara Cypress 'Lemon Thread' and *Juniperus Chinensis* 'Torulosa Variegata', all planted throughout their garden with many other specimens.



Barb and Rick have a fabulous collection of Japanese Maples, too. My favorites are *Acer palmatum* "Goshiki Shidare", planted next to the little blue spruce, and their newest acquisition purchased in St. Louis – *Acer palmatum* 'Shishigashira, in a pot between several well grown hostas.

No garden is complete without a few rocks, and cobalt blue accents in several forms - pots, a birdbath, and decorative garden décor. The Schroeder's also have cast concrete hosta leaves - a birdbath, one leaning against a tree, and several stacked at the end of their downspout.

Daylilies are mixed throughout their garden giving additional color, and we were there at the perfect time of year to see their beauty. In case you didn't notice, Barb even spray paints spent heads of Allium 'Sparkler' to give a pop of color in surprising places. One could spend hours enjoying this garden, and find new things each visit.

# Weber Garden

By Mary Vertz

We were fortunate to view the Weber Garden not only once but twice within a week! The first time for the Midwest Hosat Convention; then a week later we were back from Peroia on the Region 2 Daylily Summer Meeting bus tour. Being on two different Midwest garden tours in a week is a testament to Susan and Mike's love of gardening and sharing their fabulous gardens with others.

Susan is the 'designer' while Mike is the 'acquirer'. Since starting their gardens 1986, they have accumulated nearly 400 varieties of hosta, 150 varieties of daylilies, conifers, alpinas, hydrangea, azalea, ornamental maples, larches, beeches and cypress/metasequoia. Various perennials and annuals are sprinkled through out. All are arranged in as Susan calls them, 'rooms' which are constantly changing as Mike acquires new specimens or a plant succumbs to the "oh no it didn't make it" syndrome.



The 'rooms' in their backyard are where the conifers, alpinas, hydrangea, azalea, maples, larches, beeches and cypress have put down their roots. Various hosta, daylilies, perennials and annuals share the 'room' space. Some are well established, while others are newbies. The sheer variety is outstanding.



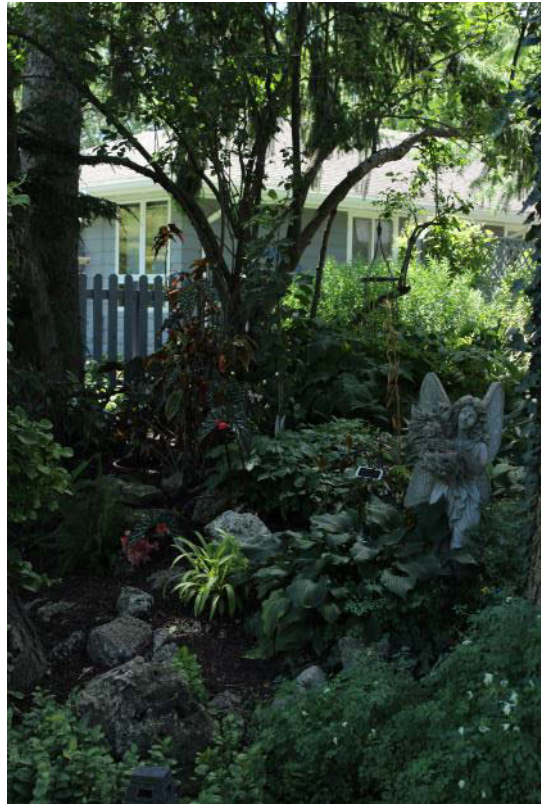
Scattered throughout the 'rooms' you'll find some unusual annuals like the An-



gel Wing begonia and perennials like the pitcher plant.



Displayed throughout the ‘rooms’ you’ll find strategically placed garden art. Artistic pieces include fairy houses, glass flowers, various angels and what garden is not complete without a snake.



The majestic Dawn Redwood towers above it all.

Though their backyard is quite large for a city lot, their collection has outgrown it. Their daylily collection fills their neighbor’s backyard on one side while their hosta collection has spilled into their neighbor’s yard on the other side. Susan and Mike’s love of gardening is evident everywhere.

It was a treat to roam from ‘room’ to ‘room’, gazing at it all while adding to my ‘wish’ list. Thanks to Susan and Mike for sharing their gardens!



# Hartman Garden

By Mary Vertz

The long driveway leads one to many walking paths that meander through various gardens.

One has fierce dragons guarding the ferns and evergreens that shelter them.



Another is shelter for the garden gnomes and their companions that live there.

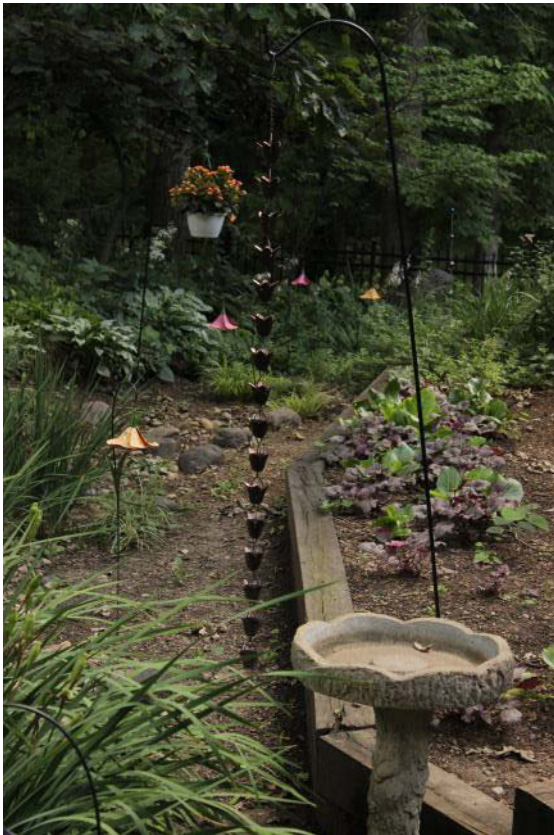
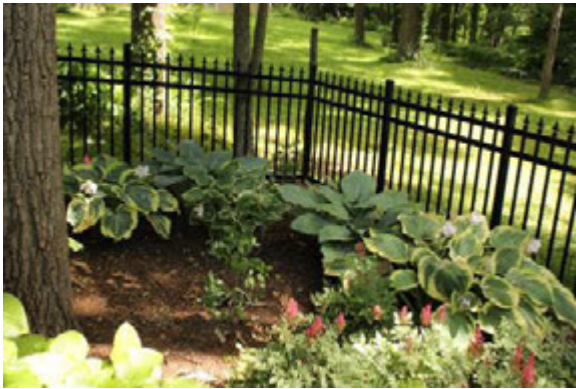


Then there are the frogs that lead you to play.



As you wonder the paths, you discover vistas of beautiful hostas, early blooming hydrangeas and artistic designs.





And throughout you'll find places that invite you to sit awhile to enjoy the gardens.



Thank you Laura for sharing your gardens!



# Hosta Garden at the University of Illinois Arboretum

By Mary Vertz

As you stroll the Kari Walkway to the Japan House, you'll find the Hosta Garden just past the Dr. Sen Cherry Allée. This beautiful garden had its beginnings in 2010 when Susan Weber then president of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, collaborated with William Kruidenier then Acting Director of the Arboretum, on creating a Hosta Garden. The idea was then brought before the IPHS board and the garden was born. Fellow IPHS members Deb Guardia and Mary Ann Metz helped with site selection and design. The Hosta Garden was dedicated as an American Hosta Society National Display Garden in June of 2013.

The garden is designed to both show the visual appeal of hostas in a garden and educate the public about hostas. As one wanders through the gardens, you realize they have accomplished both.

Throughout you'll find scattered the complete Hostas of the Year collection.



Though the spring flowers have faded, the summer garden was in its full glory. Heuchera, along with various perennials are nestled in among the hosta.





Unique garden borders have been created with rock and wood—not actually separating the hostas but joining them in sweeping masses of hostas.



The areas of young hostas served as evidence that the Hosta Garden continues to grow. ...

..while the ageless cypress trees attest to the lasting beauty of the area as they tower over mature hostas.



Thanks to Susan Weber, the IPHS and their numerous supporters for the foresight to create the Hosta Garden for generations to come. And congratulations on a job well done.



Thursday night was "Wine & Dine" at Mary Ann's!





## Educational Seminars

Growing Hosta in Containers — Bob Solberg

Shade Plants — Sandy Mason

Shady Gardens are NOT a Curse — Mary Ann Metz

Japanese Maples in Hosta Gardens — Lee Coates

## Keynote Speaker

The Evolution of a Modern Hosta — Mark Zilis



AS we leave memories of the 2016 convention behind...



...Follow the path to the 2017 convention in the...

“Land of Ahhhs”





Hostas in the Land of  
Ahhhs

June 22-24, 2017

Lenexa, Kansas

Save  
the Date

# Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Kansas City

3 Fun Days of Activities • 2 Host Cities • Topeka & Kansas City (Johnson County, KS)

## Registration includes:

**Educational Classes:** 8 to choose from with local and regional speakers and 2 keynote dinner speakers

**Garden Tours:** Topeka – 2 exceptional private gardens and 1 public garden featuring an AHS display garden. Johnson County, KS – 4 diverse gardens, 2 public gardens featuring Johnson County EMG projects

**Tour a Hosta Tissue Culture Lab**

**Local Nurseries and Garden Centers**

**Convention Gift Hosta**

**Hosta Leaf Show:** Back by popular demand!

**Vending, Auction and much more...**

Stay at the brand new beautiful Hyatt Place Kansas City/ Lenexa City Center Hotel and enjoy three dinners catered by award-winning Grand Street Café, complimentary drink coupons and hot breakfast.

Complete information will be available  
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Hosted by: Johnson County K-State Research and  
Extension Master Gardeners

Sponsored by: Midwest Regional Hosta Society



**K-STATE**  
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**Master Gardener**  
Johnson County

Questions? Call 913-715-7000



## "HOSTA ASSOCIATES"

### Plant Bulbs Now!

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Nothing signifies spring more than colorful bulbs emerging from a barren landscape that not too long ago was covered with snow. However, it's hard to think of spring when we haven't even treated the kids at Halloween. If you want a display of spring flowers, though, now is the time to plant bulbs.

The old standbys, daffodils and tulips, will certainly make a fine display in your garden, but I encourage you to think outside the box and try a few of my favorites. Many of these "minor" bulbs bloom in early spring and then take a 9 month nap before emerging again the following spring. Soon after bloom, the plant releases seed and the foliage dies down to the ground. These "Jack-in-the-box" plants have their time of notoriety and then conveniently fade away for your hostas and other plants to use the same space for a summer of enjoyment.

Two of these ephemeral bulbs are Glory-of-the-Snow (*Chionodoxa*) and Striped Squill (*Puschkinia*.) Both make great ground covers with a maximum height of 6 to 8 inches and have dainty blue and white striped flowers. They will gradually spread to form a spring floral carpet, but not so aggressively that they become weedy. In fact, the more they spread, the better. Your initial planting should consist of 100 or more bulbs for best effect. Then wait for more to come in succeeding years as they spread on their own and form colonies. Don't confuse these two with Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*), also a small, blue-flowered bulb, which can aggressively take over your yard in a short period of time. It, too, will die back, but the courser textured foliage conflicts with other emerging plants and is a major nuisance.

There are many species and varieties of ornamental onion (*Allium*) and they come in a host of sizes and colors. Some are small and bloom early, while others are up to 4 feet tall and bloom in early summer. One that I have in my rock garden, *Allium senescens glaucum*, blooms in the fall. All are very pest, rabbit, and deer resistant and mix well with your other perennials or bulbs. A planting of giant allium (*Allium giganteum*) with its 6 inch diameter balls of flowers will make quite a statement in your garden!

A good transition bulb between early spring bloomers and summer perennials is Spanish bluebell, also known as wood hyacinth (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*.) While most bulbs should be planted in full sun during their bloom time, this one will tolerate sun, part shade, or even shade. As the common names imply, the species has blue flowers and makes an excellent group planting in a woodland garden. Expect it to gradually spread on a moist, well-drained site.

Another great bulb for the shade garden is the Martagon lily (*Lilium martagon*.) The plant stands upright to a height of 4 feet and then rains down flowers for several weeks in early June. Visitors to your garden will ask you about this beauty! The first spring I had this bulb in my yard, its display was underwhelming, but each spring since my clumps have been getting bigger and bigger. It is one of my favorite compan-

ions in my hosta beds.

I like to try different plants to evaluate their performance and two years ago I planted a new one to me, *Triteleia laxa* 'Rudy' (Angel Flower.) This spring it sent up 18" stems that branched out into a spray of blue and white striped flowers. I planted the bulbs among our collection of coral bells (*Heuchera*) and the combination was stunning. As the coral bells got bigger through the summer, the foliage of Angel flower died back leaving plenty of room for the *Heuchera* foliage. No doubt it will also make a great addition to a hosta garden.

Bulbs can be planted until the ground freezes. There is still time for you to activate your trowel or bulb planter and get some in the ground. Every yard, no matter how large or small, has room for a few, or a few hundred, bulbs. Next spring you'll be glad you did.

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*Triteleia laxa* 'Rudy' (Angel Flower) in my yard this spring



# "HOSTA ASSOCIATES"

## Cold Hardy Wine Grapes

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

(I know this article doesn't relate directly to your hosta gardens, but having attended many hosta conferences in my horticultural career, I know a lot of you indulge in, and appreciate, the fruit of the vine. Hopefully, you will enjoy this article as well! )

France, Italy, and California usually come to mind first when you think of sources for high quality wine, but recently Wisconsin and upper Midwest wineries have been holding their own in national and international wine tasting competitions. Though you are unlikely to harvest Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Pinot Noir grapes from your backyard vines, you can grow varieties that have these standards in their lineage and will withstand harsh Wisconsin winters.

The explanation for obtaining high quality grapes that are Midwest hardy is the breeding of French-American hybrids that started over 100 years ago. Settlers from European wine regions would often bring their vines with them, but quickly learned that they would not survive in colder regions. They did find native grapes in these areas, but the quality of the American natives was not sufficient to produce the excellent wines with which they were familiar. Thus began experimentation by crossing the two and creating hybrid varieties.

The American grape species most often used in production of the French-American hybrids is *Vitis riparia*, the Riverbank Grape. It is native to most of the US and Canada, with the exceptions of the Southeast and Southwest. You can commonly see it climbing up trees on the edges of woodlands and forming thickets in shrubs. Most people consider it a weed if it gets into their garden, but besides being a genetic source for quality wine varieties, in its native habitat it is an important source of food and cover for numerous insects, mammals, and birds.

Two of the early releases crossing French varieties with the Riverbank Grape were Marechal Foch and Leon Millot. Both are cold hardy, high quality, disease resistant and have the important distinction of ripening early, so they can be grown in areas where the growing season is short. Marechal Foch was bred in France around 1910. The wine can be aged in oak for a complex taste, or lighter styles may be made using the technique used to make Beaujolais wines. Taste the Marechal Foch variety with the 2011 Marechal Foch reserve bottled by Chiselled Grape Winery just 3/4 mile from my home in Cedarburg, WI.

Leon Millot is the genetic sibling of Marechal Foch, also using the Riverbank grape as a parent. It was released from its breeding program in 1911 and, like Marechal Foch, is widely grown in the upper US and Canada. Domaine du Sac, one of my favorite wines from Wollersheim Winery in Prairie du Sac, WI, uses Leon Millot in a blend with Marechal Foch.

More recently, the University of Minnesota has been recognized as one of the

top wine grape research programs in the country. Their goal is to produce varieties that are of high quality, cold hardy, and disease resistant. French hybrids and *Vitis vinifera* are primarily used in their breeding and evaluation program. At this time over 100 varieties are in the final stages of evaluation.

Frontenac is a 1996 release from the UM breeding program. The hybrid cross was first made in 1978, so was under evaluation for almost 20 years before becoming available to growers. A white-fruited mutation of this red-fruited variety showed up in 2003 and was released under the name Frontenac Gris. Chiselled Lakefort wine from Chiselled Grape Winery is a Frontenac.

Related to Frontenac is the 2006 release Marquette. Once again *Vitis vinifera* is predominant in its breeding line, but also utilizes the popular west coast variety Pinot Noir. It has complex flavoring and ages well in oak barrels. Currently this UM introduction is in high demand but short supply. An excellent Marquette wine is available from Cedar Creek Winery in Cedarburg. They first introduced this wine two years ago with a 2013 vintage. When I first tried it at that time, I thought it needed to mellow out a bit so I put a couple bottles in my "wine cellar." Last month I tried one of them and it was fantastic! I now have a good supply of 2015 vintage in storage.

No longer do we have to go to France or even California to experience quality wines, for many are made in our own backyard. After a day in the garden, my wife and I like to relax on our patio with a glass of wine, many of which were produced locally.



The native Riverbank Grape has been used to breed many cold-hardy wine grapes.



**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
8 July 2016**

**Call to Order – 4:03 pm**

Present: President – Cindy Tomashek, Vice President – Barry Ankney, Treasurer & Membership Chair – Barb Schroeder, Secretary – Holly O'Donnell, Newsletter Editor – Mary Vertz, Immediate Past President – Glenn Herold. Absent: AHS Region 5 Liaison – Pat Gwidt, Winter Conference Chair, Mark Rekoske.

Motion to approve the minutes from 15 January Executive Board Meeting – Glenn, Second – Barb. Motion approved.

**Old Business**

Cindy has contacted 52 vendors/retailers throughout Midwest, 12 of which have partnered with the New Member Program accepting \$5 vouchers. Will contact vendors to see if they are willing to accept an increase to \$10. Links for the vendors appear on the club website.

All Region V Hosta societies have been contacted encouraging them to apply for the MRHS Education Grant. Since the first two applications were approved, only Jeff Miller, on behalf of the Wisconsin Hosta Society, has applied.

**Future Conventions**

Logo has been selected for next year's convention – theme is the “Land of Ahhhs”; convention hosta is in production; a hotel contract has been approved

2018 convention in Peoria – will be reintroducing H. 'Prairieland Memories', a TC gold sport of H. 'Royal Standard', as convention plant;  
Date – 11-13 July

2019 convention – no host commitment as yet

**MRHS Website**

Convention host's info will be kept in PDF form so the host rep can update convention info on the MRHS website

**Treasurer/Membership Report**

Proposed budget for 2017 as well as the 2015 end of year accounts to be approved by membership at meeting on Saturday

Checking account - \$13,792.89

Budget shows loss of \$2485.25 due to the deposit for the 2017 convention.

Membership is holding steady at 250.

Motion to buy a laptop for MRHS with \$1500 limit – Barry; Second – Glenn. Motion carried.

## **Newsletter**

1 October deadline for articles and photos

## **Old Business**

Discussion of how to increase membership. Suggestions included: getting more info about the Winter Conference and yearly conventions to the local presidents to share with their members; vouchers for new members to use at Winter Conference; any member who brings in someone new to join receives a \$10 voucher to use at the convention vendors; give local presidents in our region a 2 year membership to MRHS. No consensus reached. Motion to table discussion for next meeting – Barry, Second – Barb. Motion passed.

## **Agenda for members meeting on 9 July**

Treasurer's Report & vote of budgets

Rewording of bylaws explanation & vote

Montgomery Award presentation

Rob – KC convention slide show

Mark – program

## **Winter Conference 2017**

Barb has contacted seed growers to donate seeds for auction and will send them an email in the fall to remind them to save seeds. Format will be the same as in 2016.

## **Other**

A reminder to be made to MRHS Convention hosts that choose to hold a silent auction – sale items are limited to 12.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm  
Holly O'Donnell, Secretary



**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Actual versus Budget  
2016-2017**

**ALL AC-  
COUNTS**

Category	2016 Actual as of 10/1/2016	2016 Budget	Difference	Notes	2017 approved Budget
<b>Income:</b>					
Convention	\$7,254.39	\$5,000.00	\$2,254.39		\$5,000.00
Income-Interest	\$54.75	\$0.00	\$54.75		\$0.00
Membership	\$890.00	\$2,300.00	(\$1,410.00)		\$2,300.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,199.14</b>	<b>\$7,300.00</b>			<b>\$7,300.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>					
2017 Convention	(\$3,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)		\$0.00
Convention Computers	(\$719.36)	\$0.00	(\$719.36)	Assets	\$0.00
Award- Montgomery	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	\$200.00		-\$200.00
Awards-AHS	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	\$200.00		-\$200.00
Grants-Display Gardens	(\$900.00)	(\$1,000.00)	\$100.00	14 National Dis- play Gardens in Region 5	-\$1,500.00
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	(\$10.00)	(\$100.00)	\$90.00		-\$200.00
Newsletter	(\$147.86)	(\$1,600.00)	\$1,452.14		-\$1,500.00
Internet Site	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Paid 5 years out	\$0.00
Winter Confer- ence 2016	(\$3,376.50)	(\$4,000.00)	\$623.50		\$0.00
Winter Confer- ence 2017	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$4,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(\$8,153.72)</b>	<b>(\$7,100.00)</b>			<b>(\$10,100.00)</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$45.42</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>(\$2,800.00)</b>

<b>Winter Conference Summary:</b>				
Winter Scientific 2015	\$121.42		Years 2014 and 2015	Final
Winter Confer- ence 2016	-\$1,336.50	-\$4,000.00	Years 2015 and 2016	Final

**Account Balanc-  
es:**

Checking	\$20,427.92
Mutual Fund	\$35,054.75
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$55,482.67</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Schroeder  
Treasurer

October 1, 2016

## Midwest Regional Hosta Society Educational Fund

At the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) Executive Committee meeting held at the Dubuque Convention, it was decided to set aside funds for specific educational enhancements of current and/or future AHS National Display Gardens within Region 5. The funds will be available for any AHS National Display Garden within the region that is sponsored by a local hosta society.

Application for these funds must be submitted to the Vice-President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. The application must be submitted by the local society that is requesting funding of a specific educational aspect of the sponsored garden. A committee composed of the Vice-President, Immediate Past President, and the Treasurer of MRHS will review and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for awarding grant money.

Funding for any specific project may not exceed \$300 per project in a single calendar year, with each local society limited to a single project per year.

Specific guidelines for eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Producing handouts or brochures that are available at the garden that provide specific educational information about *Hosta*.
- Producing or updating garden signs that provide information about the display garden or a specific component of the garden related to *Hosta*.
- Installing a new display bed that features some specific collection of *Hosta*, for example, a miniature *Hosta* collection, a collection of introductions from a specific hybridizer, a collection of *Hostas* related to one of the *Hosta* species (like a *H. plantaginea* bed with cultivars derived from that species).
- Procuring display cases or containers to hold educational materials for public distribution.

The local society who is granted funding of a specific project must agree to provide documentation of the project being completed by providing samples of educational materials that are produced, providing photographs of the completed project, and submitting a report to the MRHS Executive Committee. The local society must further agree to promote membership in and participation in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society by posting membership information about MRHS in the local newsletter and/or website.

Educational Fund  
September 18, 2015



Midwest Regional Hosta Society Educational Grant Application

Name of the AHS Display Garden: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsoring Local Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Society Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved/Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the proposed educational project for this AHS Display Garden: (use additional sheets if necessary to describe your proposed project)

Educational Fund  
September 18, 2015

## 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.

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

Photos by Mary Vertz unless noted otherwise.

Join in the fun of creating the spring newsletter. Volunteer to be a Field Editor to report on one of the speakers at the Winter Conference. Contact Mary Vertz (920) 336-7678 or [mavertyz@gmail.com](mailto:mavertyz@gmail.com)

BIG thanks to our Field Editors for this edition — without you this newsletter would not be possible.

### Advertise in the *Hosta Leaves*

Contact Mary Vertz for publishing deadlines and more details. (920) 336-7678 or [mavertyz@gmail.com](mailto:mavertyz@gmail.com)



*H. 'Dick Ward'*

<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 2016 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 “2016”, 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 Conference each January in Naperville, Illinois. To join, or renew membership, please send a check for \$20 (ten dollars per year) to Barb Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Drive, Champaign, IL 61822 for email newsletters. \$30.00 per year for paper copy mailed newsletters.

Next summer’s convention will be held in Lenexa, KS and in 2018 we’ll be in Peoria, IL. Our conventions usually includes a Hosta Show; a Judges’ Clinic; garden tours; speakers; vendors of hostas, companion plants, and garden art; a lively auction; a sit-down banquet; a buffet dinner; and lots of hospitality and fellowship!