

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 83

FALL 2017

LENEXA IN REVIEW

FALL FOCUS
PEORIA, IL CONVENTION



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MRHS President's Message

Fall, 2017

The weather on that crisp fall morning in Davenport could not have been better for a day with Midwest hosta friends. The food was good, the vendors provided many choices, and the raffle attracted a great deal of interest from those in attendance. The feedback I received regarding the *Fall Focus* day's events was positive. This was a new venue that the MRHS board had decided to try, as an alternative event for our long running Winter Conference (formerly the Winter Scientific Meeting).

A panel discussion provided ample time for those in attendance to share information about what works for them in their gardens. Topics included nematode control, vole control methods, deer deterrents, rabbit deterrents, overwintering hostas in containers, soil amendments, fall cleanup routines, and a host of other topics. Information about upcoming changes to the Hosta Registry site was also shared. Members can look forward to having photos added to the Hosta Registry site, show classification information being added, and the new online Hosta Locator, funded by the American Hosta Growers Association.

Our keynote speaker, Ron Livingston, gave an informative and educational presentation on his methods of hybridizing. He shared practical, detailed tips on what has worked for him over the years. A member of FOOSF (the Fraternal Order of Seedy Fellows), he shared how he learned about hosta hybridizing and what factors he feels are important in successfully creating new and interesting cultivars. An emphasis on having fun with the hobby and using plants that are of interest to you was a focus of his message. Ron presented information at a level that was of interest to seasoned hybridizers, as well as those just beginning to adopt the hobby.

This inaugural fall event is under review by the MRHS Board. If you have any suggestions about changes, improvements, or other ideas about this event, please email your comments, mail, or telephone me. My contact information is at the end of this message. Your feedback is important. Do not hesitate to let us know what you liked, what you did not like, and any suggestions for what would have made this a better experience for you.

As you go about Fall cleanup in your gardens, harvest seeds for your hybridizing projects, and prepare for another season, remember to take time to reflect on the joy that your garden provided this past season. We sometimes get so involved in the work of our gardens that we do not pause to remember why we garden. This certainly has come to the forefront of my thinking as I have retired from active gardening. I now no longer have a garden of my own. After maintaining multiple acres of gardens for many years, I am retired to a high-rise building in downtown Chicago. While I no longer grow hostas, my appreciation for and interest in the genus has not changed. What has

changed is that I no longer must do the physical labor involved in maintaining the gardens.

I am fortunate to live across the street from a 319-acre park that is beautifully maintained by the Chicago Park District. On a recent walk through the park, I met the Superintendent of Operations for Grant Park. We had a wonderful conversation about “her” gardens. I planted the seed for her to think about expanding the Hosta gardens, and we exchanged email addresses. While I may no longer grow hostas myself, I can still be a force in promoting hostas in our community.

Those of you who help maintain public gardens know that your volunteer efforts are just as rewarding as is the enjoyment of your own private gardens. For several years, I helped maintain an AHS Display Garden in Peoria, IL. That task has been handed over to some very dedicated volunteers.

Next summer, that Illinois Central College garden, along with another public garden and many private gardens will be on the Midwest Regional Convention Tour. We hope that all of you can attend “*Hostas Play in Peoria*” July 12, 13, and 14. We will be meeting at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino in East Peoria. The local Central Illinois Hosta Society (CIHS) is putting together an event that you will not want to miss. Beautiful gardens, a Leaf Show, the Seed Growers Show, the auction, a convention gift plant (*Hosta* ‘Playin’ Peoria’), and multiple vendors will satisfy your every wish for *Hostas*. The Peoria area offers multiple venues for exploration of everything from professional Peoria Chiefs baseball to the Caterpillar Visitors Center, where you can operate simulators of many of the Caterpillar products. The Peoria Zoo, Wildlife Prairie Park, with its Bison and Elk herds, the Peoria Riverfront Museum, multiple restaurants and, of course, the Par-A-Dice Casino, for those of you inclined to wager, await your exploration. Most importantly, you will find the local members of the CIHS to be warm, welcoming, and helpful.

We look forward to seeing you next July in Peoria, Illinois. Also, mark your calendar for 2019 to join us in Green Bay, Wisconsin for our first joint convention with the American Hosta Society.

Yours in the Friendship Plant,

Barry Ankney

MRHS President

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Winner of the 2017 DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award: Mark Rekoske

This year's deserving winner of the Service award was a hosta owner most of his adult life but got really serious about collecting and hybridizing in 2005. By 2007, Mark joined hosta organizations at the local, regional, and national levels by taking memberships in the NIHS, MRHS, and AHS.

Mark retired in 2013 from his 40 year career as a Social Security Administration administrator and jumped into his gardening hobby immediately by completing Master Gardener training that same year.

Since then, Mark has served multiple terms as Vice President of the NIHS and

he took on co-management of the Winter Conference for the last three years of its run. In his spare time, Mark also volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Three years ago, Mark and his wife moved north to Richmond, IL where the larger lot allows Mark to expand both his hosta collection and his hybridizing efforts.

The membership of the MRHS offers its congratulations to Mark for his award and thanks him for his contributions to the hosta world.

By Lou Horton



Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

Midwest Hosta Society

2018 Peoria, Illinois

2019 Green Bay, Wisconsin - Joint conference with AHS

American Hosta Society

2018 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2019 Green Bay, Wisconsin

2020 Rochester, Minnesota

**Slip on your 'Ruby Slippers' and enjoy a review of the 2017
Midwest Hosta Society Convention
in Lenexa, KS**



Hang onto your Hosta Hat!!!!!!



Monet Garden

Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

By Jim Weidman (Photos too)

One of the first signs you see leaving the headquarters building boldly states, “Monet Garden”. You say to yourself, “I am in Kansas. How can there be a Monet Garden”? However, as you proceed beyond that sign you suddenly repeat that famous quote, “Dorothy, we are not in Kansas anymore”.

That quote is especially true as my wife and I have had the privilege of visiting the original “Monet Garden” at Giverny in France. Look at the photos below: one is in the Monet Garden in Giverny and one is at the Monet Garden in Kansas. Which is which?



Much credit must be given to Nancy Branum who designed the garden in Kansas and to the Johnson County Master Gardeners who planted and maintain the garden. Using plant material appropriate for Zone 6 growing conditions in Kansas, they have done a superb job of replicating the environment, the feel, the texture, and the color palette of Giverny.

We must, however, give ultimate credit to the man himself, Claude Monet (1840-1926), the world’s most famous impressionist painter, who cites his love of flowers as the reason for becoming a painter. He said, “More than anything I must have flowers, always flowers”. Indeed he considered his gardens at Giverny to be his greatest masterpiece, using flowers instead of brush strokes. In other words, he was a first a master gardener and then a painter.

Established in 2003 the Monet Garden occupies one acre. That acre incorporates hundreds of varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs and presents them in the same palette as at Giverny.

The Monet Garden consists of six distinctly planted areas, each with its own identity.

Monet Pond. We all like water to be a part of our garden landscape, but Monet’s interest was reflection and light. He liked all the plant material around the lake, but his true interest, shown here and in some of his best-known paintings, focuses on the reflection of the trees and other plant material mirrored on the water, as in the photo on the next page.



Another example is the gracefully arched bridge shown above placed to create an oval reflection in the water.

Keyhole. Not only was the reflection of light off the pond important but also off the many flowers presented at different heights and in various colors. He especially liked the reflection off white flowers such as *Gaura Lindheimeri* shown in this part of the garden. The Keyhole also does a great job of portraying Monet's ability to put several colors at once on his brush and thus the blending of many colors in plant material.



The bronze positioned at the edge of the water, complete with a bronze paint brush, canvas, easel, and box full of paints, shows the artist at work.

Woodland Edge. Reflected in this section of the garden is Monet's ability to look beyond color to the skyline at the edges of the garden showing different trees, multiple branching styles, and textures. The photo to the left, shows a background of shrubs and trees at various levels, different colors and texture, but with a focus on one of favorites, the weeping willow. You feel quiet and peaceful in the shade.



Allee. The trellises and arches in this area replicate those at Giverny which Monet used to create tunnels to hold climbing roses, clematis, and wisteria. The photo to the left shows one of the gardens tour guides in front of a series of trellises. Indeed the dimensions do change as you proceed down this trellis covered walkway.

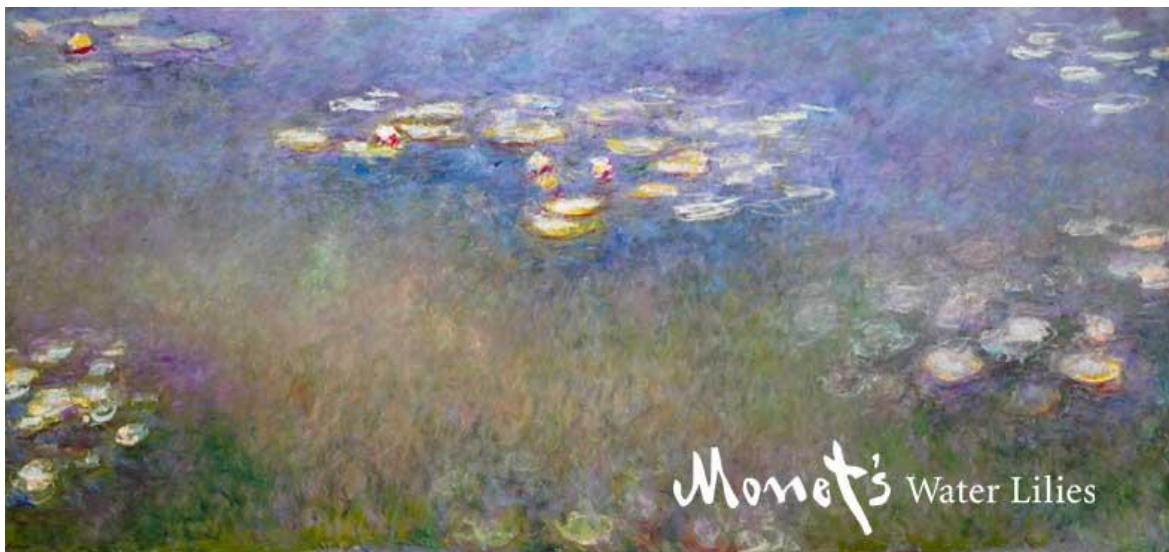
Sunset. As the name suggests, this is an area of more intense colors that would become more apparent later in the season. Walking further into this garden you would be able to observe the sunset and the backlighting of flowers that Monet very much enjoyed.



South Walk. This is actually the first area that one encounters as you enter the garden. As the photos below demonstrate, it is a quiet walkway framed by relaxing, wooden benches, and lined with beautiful flowers such as the gladiolas and the Allium ‘Millennium’.



A discussion of a Monet garden is not complete unless you highlight the importance of water lilies. Water lilies are omnipresent. This is true in this garden specifically under the arched bridge. Water lilies were the focus of some of Monet’s most important impressionistic paintings. Below is a close-up of the water lilies under the



arched bridge and the Monet painting on view at the Saint Louis Art Museum. The large scale water lily compositions represent the culminating achievement of his career.

Yes, this is Kansas, but the 55 volunteers who work in the Monet Garden each week from Monday through Friday and the 15 who work on the weekends have created a garden that would make Monet proud.



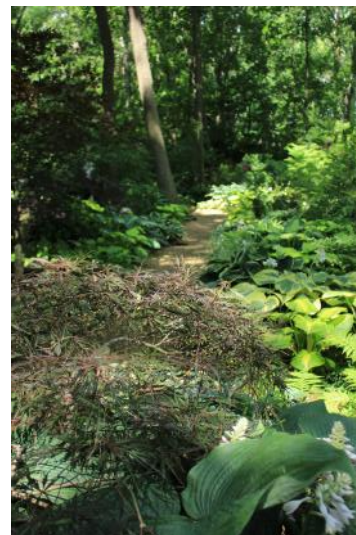
Harmony with Nature - Saathoff Garden

By Jeanette Kohlbeck

The Saathoff garden is a shady, tranquil oasis carved among mature oaks. Terracing enhances the displays of hostas, Japanese maples, hydrangeas and other perennials.



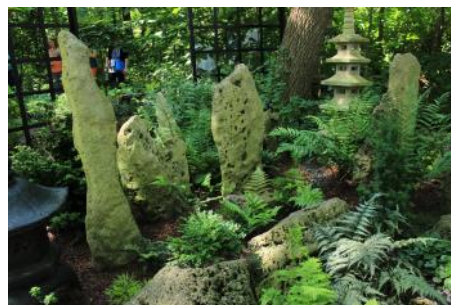
Pathways wind through the gardens, offering many views of the mature hostas, water features, and artfully arranged miniature hostas in containers.



Rocks provide a contrast in textures with the smooth and puckered leaves of the hostas and lacy Japanese maples.



Colorful annuals highlight the patio areas overlooking the gardens which provide the perfect spot for a morning cup of coffee or meditation. Pausing to look at the Asian rock garden provides an opportunity for quiet reflection.



This garden was a wonderful example of creating a soothing environment in which to give up your worries and connect with nature.



Mortko Garden Follow the Yellow Brick Road

By MJ Kapla

(Photos too unless noted otherwise)

I have been asked to write an article for one of the gardens at the Kansas Convention and I chose the Rob Mortko Garden and TC lab.

I think the reason why was because I was so in awe of the whole operation taking place there. I knew we were in for good things when we had to put on booties to go in the

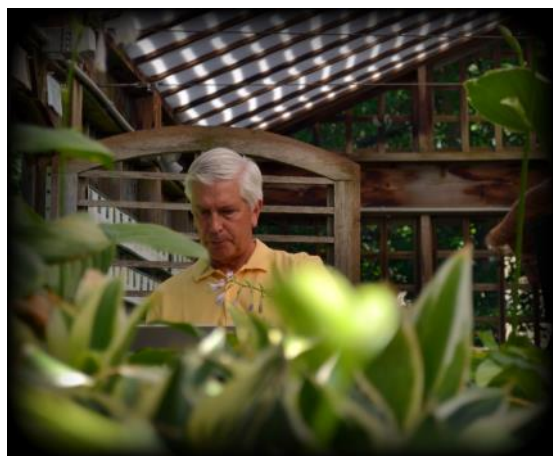


house. Further down the stairs we read,

Absolutely amazing what we were about to see, all of the machines, test tubes with plant material in them, lights, etc. Yes, he does this all in his home!! Remarkable under taking if you ask me and he has only been doing this about 7 years or so. To further emphasize the under taking were all of the hostas planted up in containers on



By Mary Vertz



his patio steps out back from many hybridizers that had planted their own seeds and were there for Rob to do “Tissue Cultures” on them to grow many more.

It was an unexpected surprise also to be able to purchase hostas there from his lathe green house in the back yard, maybe getting its

start in the tissue culture lab! Far removed from how I purchased my very first hosta



By Mary Vertz



By Mary Vertz

35 years ago from a local nursery when we dug it out of his fields and many more were “bare root” in a cooled root cellar, originator stock I believe.

Yes Rob your newly renovated gardens were very nice also.

Being a newbie from upper Midwest Wisconsin and my first convention I had a great time, even winning numerous ribbons from the Leaf Show. I even managed to make it to the Head table with one, but with much celebration my friend Germaine won it. I take no offense that my “Cheese Head” Hat didn’t warrant much acclaim either,



By Mary Vertz

not having any references to Kansas City, but watch out Kansas City Chiefs NFL team, be ready!!

Thank You

to all of the Host Gardens for sharing with all of us, making for a very enjoyable and memorable time.



By Mary Vertz



By Mary Vertz

Warde Mead Botanical Garden



The Garden Gallery

By Joan Poos (Photos too)

Approaching the Johnson County Sunset Drive office complex, The Garden Gallery appears as a wood encrusted extraterrestrial landing pad. The sleek horizontal



lines of its outer walls compliment the glass and steel structure at its immediate right. However, numerous conifers poking their heads above the tall curving walls, give a hint of what lies beyond.

Established in 2007 by the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Master Gardeners, the space was designed to be a teaching garden. Its purpose is to display “a diverse palette of plants for the home landscape”. Plantings include old favorites as well as new cultivars and all are suitable for growing conditions in the local region. They are selected for their ornamental attributes, their environmental friendliness, their reduced maintenance requirements and their usefulness in garden design. Many possess attributes that hold interest throughout the year.

Built on a construction site, the space consists of large raised beds intersected with winding wood chip paths edged with white rock. Rocks and debris had to be trucked away and loads of top soil imported. A concrete patio sports picnic tables and benches where the public and nearby office workers can spend a quiet, restful lunch hour.

Several tall metal trellises form rooms on the front peripheral of the garden. These showcase clematis, climbing roses, and a hyacinth bean. Tall eastern arborvitae and eastern red cedar form the back of the rooms. Situated in the center of one area is an unusual dwarf Korean lilac grown as a tree form (*Syringa meyeri* ‘Paliban’). Colorful annuals, *Allium schubarti*, looking like a 1960s Sputnik chandelier, and a large sky blue urn oozing bubbling water backed by the deep green foliage of a ‘Green Tower’ boxwood complete the picture.

The backbone and primary focus of the Garden Gallery is a collection of small trees and hardy shrubs. It is amazing how many can be crammed into a relatively small space and still be able to showcase their individuality. This is the perfect place to window shop. Are you in need of a conifer?



They range in size from towering Colorado spruces to a cute arborvitae labeled 'Mr. Bowling Ball'. Does your yard need a flowering shrub? There is a large variety of hydrangea, viburnum, rhododendron and hibiscus on display. Maybe you want small perennials to tuck in your borders. Check out the collection of coral bells, hellebores and phlox. Looking for something a bit more unusual. It might be just around the

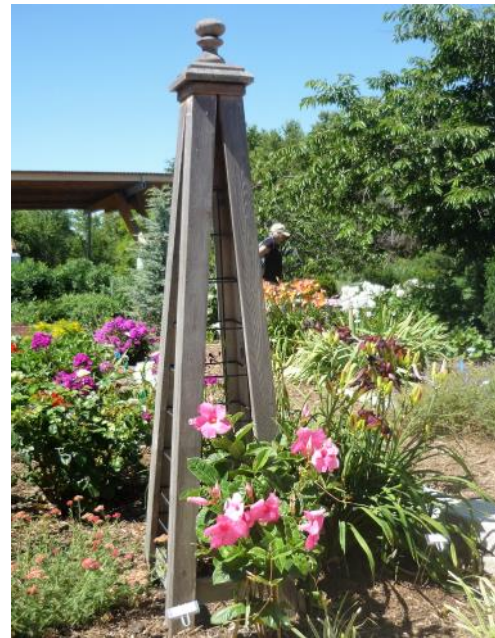


curve in the path. Each plant, be it tree, shrub, vine, perennial or annual, is clearly marked with its Latin name, cultivar name and a short English description.

At the rear of the Garden Gallery, two beds cater to the needs of pollinators. The Butterfly Garden features a central wood-chip path edged with parsley that leads to a stone bench. This plant, a member of the carrot family, is a primary source of food for the caterpillar stage of the Black Swallowtail butterfly. Though biennial, parsley is usual-

ly grown as an annual. Its fresh green foliage mixes well with other plants and was quite attractive used here as a small hedge.

The Butterfly Garden and its adjoining Cottage Garden were ablaze with color. Bees and butterflies flited amongst the agastache, asclepias, salvia, golden rod, monarda and other colorful annuals and perennials. In the mix were irises, daylilies, lots of roses and coral bells. Small shrubs such as lilac, Caryopteris, beautyberry, viburnum and hydrangea give a bit of height to the areas. The Cottage Garden features two tall obelisk supporting a vine with bright pink blossoms. When the colors of spring, summer and fall fade away, small conifers and scattered hardscape provide winter interest.



Also at the back is a Rain Garden anchored by a sculpture aptly titled 'Thalia'. This area, bordering a dry creek is planted with many different kinds of grasses and small bushes. A beautiful arced wooden bridge crosses the dry creek and leads to areas not yet fully landscaped.

The garden is open year round, free to the public. Extension Master Gardeners are on-site each Thursday morning during the growing season. These volunteers share our love of gardening and gladly answer questions. Whether they were helping with the convention at the hotel or acting as docents in the various tour gardens, the Master Gardeners were friendly, enthusiastic and quite knowledgeable. You all deserve a round of applause not only for your work this week, but for what you do throughout the year.

Garden of Fran and Charlene Lemery

By Greg Peterson (Photos too)

“They’re just plain green hostas, we don’t have to stop and look at them” remarked one garden visitor to her companion in front of me as they exited the backyard and walked by the sixteen potted plants along the side of the house. They may have been somewhat non-descript in terms of their appearance and coloration, but these plants play an important role in determining the shape, variegation and diversity of many present-day hosta cultivars. These plants were original Japanese species hostas and represent the building



blocks for many of today’s distinct hosta offerings.

You would not expect a traditional Japanese garden as you walk up the driveway of this house in a suburban neighborhood of Kansas City. The

first hint that this is not an ordinary yard and garden is a front garden composed of conifers and evergreens, fencing, boulders and a traditional tsukubai or water basin. From there, a simple garden path directs you around the side of the house and through a formal entry gate. Once you are through the gate and into the backyard, the real sensory experience of an authentic Japanese garden is realized.



Begun in 1995 and enhanced in 2008, the Lemery’s Japanese Garden is a simple look in appearance, but reflects detailed planning to ensure that all of the components incorporated into the garden lead to a disciplined yet calming garden experience. This attention to detail resulted in visitors being



being directed to visit various garden areas within the back-

yard including the Patio Garden. It was here that the patio table was set up in a complete Japanese tea setting and at a side table samples of a prepared Japanese hosta dish were available for tasting. While it was interesting to sample the dish, I am not rushing to begin marketing hostas as a “food” crop at this time!!

As we exited the backyard through the other garden gate, we had a chance to admire the sixteen Japanese species hosta in pots along the side yard. As we came around



the side of the house and back to the front, we were greeted by three women dressed in traditional Japanese outfits who served us tea. A fitting closure to a delightful garden experience!



NOTE: While the outside gardens were spectacular and authentic in every detail, I was also given a tour of the interior of their house by Fran. The attention to detail was just as impressive, as the Lemerys have remodeled many rooms of their house in a Japanese style and with authentic furnishings. Stunning in every detail was a complete Japanese tea room recreated in their basement, where they hold occasional Japanese tea ceremonies. Truly amazing!

Educational Seminars

Lee Coates: “Japanese Maples, New and Unusual Varieties”

Lenora Larson: “The Love Connection: Flowers and Pollinators”

Dr. S. Mark Goodwin: “The Effect of Hosta Leaf Waxes on Slug Feeding”

Rob Mortko (“pinch hitter “for Glenn Herold who was unable to make it at the last minute): talked on hosta availability through the years.

Tom Micheletti: “Hostas in the Landscape”

Dr. Alan Stevens: “Grow the Roots and the Plant Will Take Care of Itself”

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Gus van der Hoeven: “Ahhh.. Kansas”

Bill Malouche: “New Plants to Complement the Midwest Hosta Garden”

Snyder Garden

By Jean Meyer (Photos too)

The Snyder city lot garden is a shady oasis in the sun-drenched Kansas landscape. Approximately 200 conifers of all shapes, sizes and textures provide the backbone and structure to this garden. Walking the needle strewn paths, you will find stately large conifers to dwarf varieties throughout the yard. Deciduous trees and shrubs have their place also. Ginkgoes, Japanese maples, magnolias are interplanted adding more forms and texture to the garden.

Boulders and shade tolerant perennials, especially hostas, fill out the garden areas and tie all the elements together to create a serene landscape of soothing greens and blues. Hostas, in their many different tones of green and blue add depth and interest. Hostas, like *H.*'Sum and Substance', create the effect of a sunlit spot. *H.*'Golden Friendship' and *H.*'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' add bolder colored contrasts. *H.*'Regal Splendor' with undertones of blue and a variegated edge and the pink blooms of heuchera brightens a planting of bluish conifers. *H.*'Sagae', *H.*'Great Expectations', *H.*'Abiqua Trumpet' specimen plants are used as focal counterpoints to the finer leaved conifers in other areas



*H.*Abiqua Trumpet

Hostas, combined with other shade tolerant perennials are effective in creating an interesting understory planting and unifying all the garden. The larger leaved hostas provide an interesting contrast against finer needled conifers and weeping spruces. Hakonechloa grass brings a different color palette and texture to the scene and is also a good understory plant. Lacy ferns and the bold Rodgersia leaf caught the eye of most garden visitors. Mid-size and small hostas fill in and edge beds and work



*H.*Revolution

well with dwarf and small conifers. A planting of a *H.*'Gold Drop' type of edger with a series of the "mouse hostas" closer to the patio was a fun addition.

It is often difficult to combine variegated plants. Marvin Snyder showed it can be done well with a combination of *H.*'Revolution', both all

green and variegated boxwood, and a small white-margined edging hosta. In another area a combination of *H.* 'Fragrant Bouquet', *Disporum sessile* 'Variegatum' and *H.* 'Lakeside Looking Glass' was an eye catcher.

Closer to the patio you will find more garden art including a small patio fountain, and metal bird art. Interesting troughs and vertical wall gardens reflect more recent garden trends and work well around the patio. The choices fit well with the artistic feel of the garden.



The garden is the artistic creation of Marvin Snyder, 91, a professional architect and engineer, now retired. Without a doubt, he is also a garden artist. Marvin Snyder became interested in conifers in the 1980s and joined the American Conifer Society eventually becoming president. He especially likes hostas in his garden and has over 200 varieties as well as numerous other perennials. Like many of us, he is a collector of plants he loves.

But his garden is not an ordinary collector's garden. He has managed to combine the many kinds of different plants and garden accessories into a unified theme and pleasing whole – no small accomplishment, especially for a collector! I once again left a garden with zone envy and garden envy.

When flying, "you have to get as many landings as take offs".

...Dr. Gus van der Hoeven



Dale & Maggie Warren's Garden

By Laurie McGill

A stroll through Dale & Maggie's garden starts with the inviting patio garden full of pots overflowing in colorful blooms, tinkling water features and even a big kettle ready for a backyard campfire. Their woodland garden provides a pleasant surprise around every bend and curve in the trail. As you wander and explore, take in the sounds of the babbling brook and keep an eye out for the beautiful bronze sculptures that accent the garden in surprising places. Then take a moment or two to sit and relax in any of the many colorful resting spots along the path. As the trail takes you deeper into the garden, with its waves of hostas along with a daylily or hellebore tucked in here and there, you round one of the last bends only to come upon Dale's whimsical Man Cave, complete with its own outhouse and still!

With over 75 varieties of hostas finding home in their garden, Dale & Maggie's favorites are *H.*'June', *H.*'Pineapple Upside Down Cake' and *H.*'Whirlwind', reminding Maggie of a Kansas tornado.



Livingston Garden

By Mary Vertz

As you stroll down the path leading to the backyard, you are greeted by one of Frank's whimsical frog statues. Are they foretelling of the sights to see? Or a warning of what this path leads to?



What a delight awaited us at the end of the path! You get

your first glimpse of Frank's passion for working with leafs and concrete at the bottom of the path.



As you stroll through the arbor you are greeted by a breathtaking view of the wonders that await you in the grass-less backyard. Yes not a blade of grass grows in Frank and Brenda's backyard!



There's the seashell birdbath that is a reminder of their South Carolina roots.

Frogs that tug at your heartstrings!



Unique birdhouses.



A collection of "Hostas of the Year".



Gorgeous hostas everywhere!



Where does one look next!



The gentle sound of water falling, draws you to various hosta leaf waterfalls that were handcrafted by Frank.



Frank delighted in showing visitors the secrets behind the making of his birdbaths.



There was so much to see that put a song in your heart and a spring in your step!

Frank had many interesting life experiences to share, so if you get a chance to visit the Livingston's garden be sure to ask Frank about his Nascar days.



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Final Show Report for Accredited Hosta Shows

Name of Show Hostas in the Land of Ahhhs Name of Host Society Johnston County
Master Gardeners & MRHS
Show Date 6-22-17

Show Location Lenexa, KS
Show Chair Mary Ann Metz
Show Co-Chair _____
Classification Chair Holly & Jim O'Donnell
Schedule Chair Mary Ann Metz
Placement Chair Phyllis & Jim Weidman
Judges Chair Barb Schroeder

Number of Exhibitors 30 Approximate Number of Show Attendance 220+

Division I – Horticulture 241

Section I	<u>9</u>	Section II	<u>22</u>	Section III	<u>47</u>	Section IV	<u>95</u>
Section V	<u>21</u>	Section VI	<u>0</u>	Section VII	<u>0</u>	Section VIII	<u>3</u>
Section IX	<u>7</u>	Section X	<u>13</u>	Section XI	<u>0</u>	Section XII	<u>24</u>

Division II – Container Grown Hosta	<u>4</u>
Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged For Effect	<u>2</u>
Division IV - Educational Displays	<u>1</u>
Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits	<u>1</u>
Division VI – Artistic Design	<u>7</u>
Division VII – Specialty Division	<u>0</u>

Hosta Show Judges for Divisions I, II, III, VI, V and VII

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City and State)</u>
Cindy Tomachek	Rochester, MN
Jim Weidman	Kirkwood, MO
Holly O'Donnel	St. Anne, IL
Greg Peterson	Oakdale, MN
Phyllis Weidman	Kirkwood, MO
Jim O'Donnell	St. Anne, IL
Kim Larsen	W. St. Paul, MN
Germaine Schwaller	Keshena, WI
Mona Keenn	Rochester, MN
Barb Schroeder	Champaign, IL
Amy Peterson	Oakdale, MN
Pat Gwidt	Keshena, WI

Artistic Design Judges for Division VI

Name	Address (City and State)
Floanna Crowley	Wichita, KS
Elaine Holmstrom	Topeka, KS
Karen Booker	Lawrence, KS

DIVISION I – Horticulture

Hosta Name or Seedling ID

Exhibitor

Best of Show <u>H. 'Pineapple Poll'</u>	<u>Germaine Schwaller</u>
Best Seedling or Sport <u>7 seedling</u>	<u>Diana Plahn</u>
Sweepstakes <u>(22)</u>	<u>Cindy Tomashek</u>
Section I <u>H. 'Guardian Angel'</u>	<u>Mary Kapla</u>
Section II <u>H. 'Neptune'</u>	<u>Germaine Schwaller</u>
Section III <u>H. 'Her Eyes Were Blue'</u>	<u>Sally Stewart</u>
Section IV <u>H. 'Pineapple Poll'</u>	<u>Germaine Schwaller</u>
Section V <u>H. 'Lakeside Baby Face'</u>	<u>Cindy Tomashek</u>
Section VI <u>none</u>	_____
Section VII <u>none</u>	_____
Section VIII <u>none</u>	_____
Section IX <u>seedling</u>	<u>Don Dean</u>
Section X <u>7 seedling</u>	<u>Diana Plahn</u>
Section XI <u>none</u>	_____
Section XII <u>none</u>	_____

DIVISION II – Container Grown Hosta

Grand Award <u>H. 'Dixie Chickadee'</u>	<u>Phyllis & Jim Weidman</u>
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DIVISION III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect

Grand Award <u>none</u>	_____
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DIVISION IV – Educational Exhibits

Grand Award <u>none</u>	_____
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DIVISION V – Non-Competitive Exhibits

(No Award – This Division is not Judged)

DIVISION VI – Artistic Design

Best Artistic Design Award _____	<u>Joyce Householder</u>
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DIVISION VII – Specialty Division

Theme _____

Grand Award <u>none</u>	_____
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Is that a hosta leaf???



AS we reminisce on the wonders of the 2017 convention...



...Head on over to the [MRHS Website](#) to read the advance “play bill” for the upcoming MRHS feature event...



Save the dates (July 12th—14th) and be ready to reserve your seat when ‘tickets’ go on sale. Watch the website for details! See you there!

MRHS Fall Focus 2017

By Mary Vertz

The MRHS inaugural “Fall Focus” event took place on Saturday, September 30th, at Vander Veer Botanical Gardens in Davenport, IA. Despite the gloomy fall weather that we had been having, it was a beautiful sunny fall day. Attendees received the new intro *H.* ‘Tower of Power’ and were welcomed with hot coffee, tea and donuts to start the day.

The morning activities kicked off with vending sales by three well known vendors: In the Country Gardens and Gifts, Jack’s



Hosta’s and Made in the Shade.

Being late in the year, vending sales were not brisk but some hostas did manage to find new homes. Vendors and attendees enjoyed mingling and spending time with each other.



The morning Expert Panel consisted of Barry Ankney, Glenn Herold, and Rick Schroeder. They fielded questions for about an hour followed by a great lunch catered by a local deli.



Following lunch, Ron Livingston shared his experiences in hybridizing during his talk “Why Hybridize Hostas”. Surprisingly Ron had his start in hybridizing breeding fish!



By Jack Barta

Ron’s slide show included pictures of his favorite hosta offspring.



Ron's talk was followed by the Expert Panel. Both panels had great questions and participation from the audience.



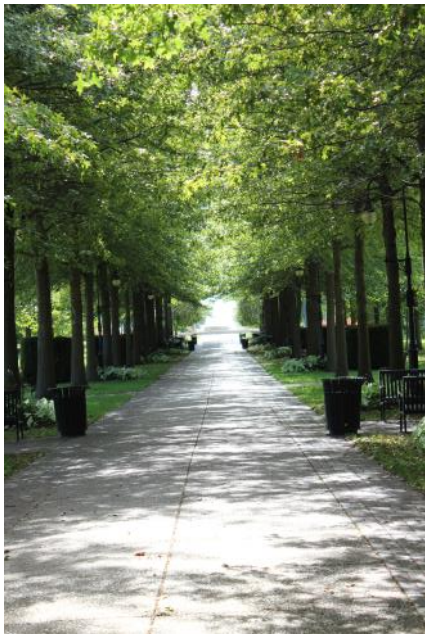
By Jack Barta

The afternoon activities where topped off with the "RAFFLE". Thanks to all the generous donations, almost everyone went home with a prize.

The outdoor venue did present some challenges. Though we were under a tent, it was a little 'crisp' in the morning and the power generator for the AV equipment at first wasn't sure it wanted to stay powered on. It only protested once at the beginning of Ron's speech and then was well behaved for the rest of it.



During breaks, everyone enjoyed strolling through the hosta garden, rose garden, around the pond or strolling down the avenue to the fountain. Vander Veer also offered indoor tropical gardens.



Those who came, enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and time to mingle with fellow hosta friends one last time before winter sets in. All in all considering the short timeframe to organize it, the inaugural "Fall Focus" was a success. Everyone liked the September time frame but thought probably would be better to have an indoor option in case of inclement weather. Goal remains to have "Fall Focus" at a public garden so attendees can stroll through the gardens during breaks.

Looking forward to "Fall Focus" 2018.

"HOSTA ASSOCIATES"

Green Therapy

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

If January is known for anything besides cold weather and snow, it's for New Year's resolutions. I'm not a big believer in resolutions myself, but for fun I googled the topic to see what I could discover. One site suggested 29 resolutions. These included "start a meditation practice," "learn something new each day," "pick a hobby," "be more active," "eat healthier," "spend more time in nature," "enjoy the little things," "bring more peace into your life," "create a positive attitude," and "keep a journal." While they may seem quite diverse at first glance, you could sum up all of them in one word: Gardening!

Gardening is good for you. The American Horticultural Therapy web site states, "Horticultural therapy (HT) is a time-proven practice. The therapeutic benefits of garden environments have been documented since ancient times. In the 19th century, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and recognized as the 'Father of American Psychiatry,' was first to document the positive effect working in the garden had on individuals with mental illness."

"HT techniques are employed to assist participants to learn new skills or regain those that are lost. HT helps improve memory, cognitive abilities, task initiation, language skills, and socialization. In physical rehabilitation, HT can help strengthen muscles and improve coordination, balance, and endurance. In vocational HT settings, people learn to work independently, problem solve, and follow directions. Horticultural therapists are professionals with specific education, training, and credentials in the use of horticultural for therapy and rehabilitation."

The Environmental Design Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin - Madison's Department of Landscape Architecture is no longer just emphasizing the aesthetics of design, but is using horticulture for therapy and rehabilitation as well. Projects employ outdoor design to help people get more exercise and to create safer, calmer, and more cohesive neighborhoods. Elder care facilities now incorporate barrier-free landscape designs at their facilities. Hospital campuses are designed such that the majority of patient rooms have a clear view of the outdoor landscape, because studies have shown that postsurgical patients who had a view of trees from their hospital windows were released sooner, took less pain medication and experienced fewer complications than did patients who looked at a blank wall.

On a smaller scale, you can improve your own physical and mental health through gardening. After a long day at work, a walk through the garden helps you feel relaxed. Leave your smart phone in the house and communicate with nature. Studies have shown that gardening can even help lessen symptoms of depression. Your mood will improve and you may have better interaction with your family.

Gardening is also a mild form of exercise. While not the equivalent of a four mile run, digging, planting, weeding, and other repetitive tasks that require strength or stretching are excellent forms of low-impact exercise, especially for people who find

more vigorous exercise a challenge, such as those who are older, have disabilities, or suffer from chronic pain. As a pleasurable and goal-oriented outdoor activity, gardening has another advantage over other more energetic forms of exercise: People are more likely to stick with it and do it often.

As we approach the cold, snowy days of winter, gardening may be far from our minds. But on January 1, resolve to buy more hostas (and other plants) in 2018 and take your gardening to the next level. Make your garden a healing garden.



By Glenn Heraold

A place to sit in the garden contributes to the relaxing experience.



Do slugs like beer? According to Tom “If you drink the beer, you won’t see any slugs!”.

"HOSTA ASSOCIATES"

Winter Garden Interest

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

It's not even December and already most gardeners are looking forward to spring. However, I work hard in my garden from April through November and don't mind a few more months of rest and recovery. Soon the garden catalogs will be coming and we can start planning for the spring, but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy our gardens during the winter months. If you grow nothing but hostas, you will be looking out at a barren landscape all winter. Diversity is the spice of life! Here are a few ways that I have created winter interest in my garden.

Evergreens are the obvious choice for creating color in the winter garden. Even though broadleaf evergreens, such as rhododendrons and hollies, are not always successful in the Midwest, conifers come in a host of colors, forms, and textures and provide much winter significance. Some of my favorites are *Abies concolor* 'Candicans' and *Abies lasiocarpa* 'Glauca Compacta' (White fir and Dwarf Rocky Mountain Fir) for their stunning blue color, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Snow' (Falsecypress) for its white-tipped foliage, the narrow weeping form of *Cupressus nootkatensis* 'Green Arrow' (Alaskan Cedar) and *Tsuga canadensis* 'Emerald Fountain' (Canada Hemlock,) and the tight fine textured foliage and compact form of *Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin' (Dwarf White Pine).

Many plants have colorful bark and interesting texture that stand out in the winter. My all time favorite of these is *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple.) The peeling, cinnamon-red bark color is striking in all seasons, but especially in the winter. The redosier dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*) are also noted for their winter color. Most are red, but the cultivar 'Flaviramea' changes from green to yellow during the leafless time of the year. Even the yellow twigs of larches (*Larix*,) a conifer that loses its needles in the winter, add color during the winter season.

Grasses and perennials, though void of flowers during the dormant season, add color, texture, and movement during these months. I especially like the Feather Reed grasses (*Calamagrostis acutiflora* and *C. brachytricha*) for their sturdy upright growth habit and showy flowering structure. And don't forget to leave some of your perennials standing until spring, especially purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*). The finches will thank you!

Some shrubs have an unusual branching structure that is more visible in the winter. Contorted hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' and the red-foliaged 'Red Dragon') has a twisted branching structure that looks like a modern sculpture. The winter gardener can even find beauty in the horizontal green stems of our native pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*,) especially with its up-curved branch tips. The weeping branches of the afore mentioned Alaskan Cedar often sweep the snow line during the winter.

A little bit of garden bling also helps to spice up the winter landscape. The pergola and arbor in our yard add structure year-round. My wife's favorite, though, is her

bust of 'Josephine,' so named because it was located next to *Hosta* 'Josephine' in our former garden. Many a journal entry has been written by her speculating on Josephine's thoughts as she gracefully tolerates our cold temperatures and snow falls. While I don't recommend overuse of garden ornaments, a few strategically placed pieces of garden art help you to enjoy the winter garden.

A garden is to be enjoyed in all seasons. Plan accordingly.



Josephine doesn't seem to mind the snow!



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

22 June 2017

Call to Order – 1:04 pm

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

Motion to approve the minutes from 20 January Executive Board Meeting – Pat, Second – Barry. Motion approved.

Officer Reports

Vice President: Future Conventions

Barry reviewed sites of future conventions: 2018 – Peoria; 2019 – Green Bay as a joint convention with AHS; 2020 – possibly as a joint convention with AHS in Minneapolis

Motion to do a joint convention in Minneapolis with AHS in 2020 – Barb, Second – Holly. Motion approved.

Treasurer/Membership Report

Barb presented the board with the “2017 Actual versus Budget” to date and the proposed 2018 Budget.

Motion to increase the budget for the “Event 2018” (formerly Winter Conference) from \$5,000 to \$10,000 – Barb, Second – Pat. Motion approved.

No one has applied for the Display Garden grant.

Discussion of MRHS hosting a fall tailgate event in lieu of the Winter Conference due to its continuing declining attendance. Possible sites for the fall event include: Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa; Vander Veer Botanical Park in Davenport, Iowa; Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois.

AHS Region 5 Liaison

Pat reported that the Master Gardeners from Wausau, Wisconsin are working on getting a hosta display garden at Monk Gardens but have run into problems. Completion could take a couple of years.

Newsletter

Mary announced that the next deadline for the newsletter will be 1 October and she is looking for people to write about the gardens we are touring at Kansas City.

New Business

Slate of officers for 2018: President – Barry Ankney, Vice-President – Barbara King, Secretary – Holly O'Donnell, Regional Director – Glenn Herold.

Proposal for extending membership offers to past MRHS members attending this convention – 1/2 price 2 year membership @ \$10.

Proposal for non-MRHS members who are AHS members attending the convention – 1/2 price 2 year membership @ \$10.

Motion to accept the membership proposals – Barry, Second – Mary.

Further discussion concerning the fall tailgate event ensued. Details to be shared with the membership on Saturday night:

- Registration fee of \$20 will be charged to each attendee

- Lunch will be provided by and paid for by MRHS

- Possible activities include a raffle and speaker(s)

Look into possibility of giving the first 100 attendees a free hosta

Members will be invited to name the event and send ideas to Barry by 15 July

Dates: September 23 or September 30

Cindy volunteered to assist Glenn on coordinating the event.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

Submitted by Holly O'Donnell, Secretary



Midwest Regional Hosta Society Actual versus Budget 1/1/2017 - 10/21/2017

ALL ACCOUNTS

Category	2017 Actual to Date	2017 Budget	Difference	Notes	2018 Budget to be approved in June 2017
Income:					
2017 Convention Auction	\$5,336.24	\$5,000.00	\$336.24		\$0.00
2017 Convention-MRHS Sponsor	\$9,790.27	\$0.00	\$9,790.27		\$0.00
2018 Convention	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Income-Interest	\$21.68	\$0.00	\$21.68		\$0.00
Membership:	\$1,238.20	\$2,300.00	(\$1,061.80)	Member-ships are coming in	\$2,300.00
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$16,386.39</u>	<u>\$7,300.00</u>	<u>\$9,086.39</u>		<u>\$7,300.00</u>
Expense:					
Award-Montgomery	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	\$200.00		(\$100.00)
Awards-AHS	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	\$200.00		(\$200.00)
Grants-Display Gardens	(\$300.00)	(\$1,500.00)	\$1,200.00	15 National Display Gardens in Region 5	(\$2,400.00)
Liability Insurance	(\$452.00)	\$0.00	(\$452.00)	Needed for Fall Focus	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	(\$178.91)	(\$200.00)	\$21.09		(\$100.00)
Newsletter	(\$301.62)	(\$1,500.00)	\$1,198.38		(\$750.00)
Internet Site	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Paid 5 years out	\$0.00
Winter Conference 2017	(\$2,115.75)	(\$4,000.00)	\$1,884.25		\$0.00
Fall Focus 2017	(\$1,928.35)	\$0.00	(\$1,928.35)		(\$5,000.00)
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>(\$5,276.63)</u>	<u>(\$7,600.00)</u>	<u>\$2,323.37</u>		<u>(\$8,550.00)</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$11,109.76</u>	<u>(\$300.00)</u>	<u>\$11,409.76</u>		<u>(\$1,250.00)</u>

Account Balances:

Checking	\$35,024.89
Money Market	\$35,088.54
Total Assets	\$70,113.43

Respectfully submitted,
 Barbara Schroeder
 Treasurer 10/21/2017

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 and provide an article for the Spring Newsletter. Contact Mary Vertz (920) 336-7678 or mavertzy@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 mavertzy@gmail.com



H. 'Goodness Gracious

Full Color Ads:			
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"
Black & White Ads:			
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 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

Membership

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice. If it says “2017”, 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 a one day Conference either in fall or January. 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 Peoria, IL and in 2019 will be a joint convention with AHS in Green Bay, WI. 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!