

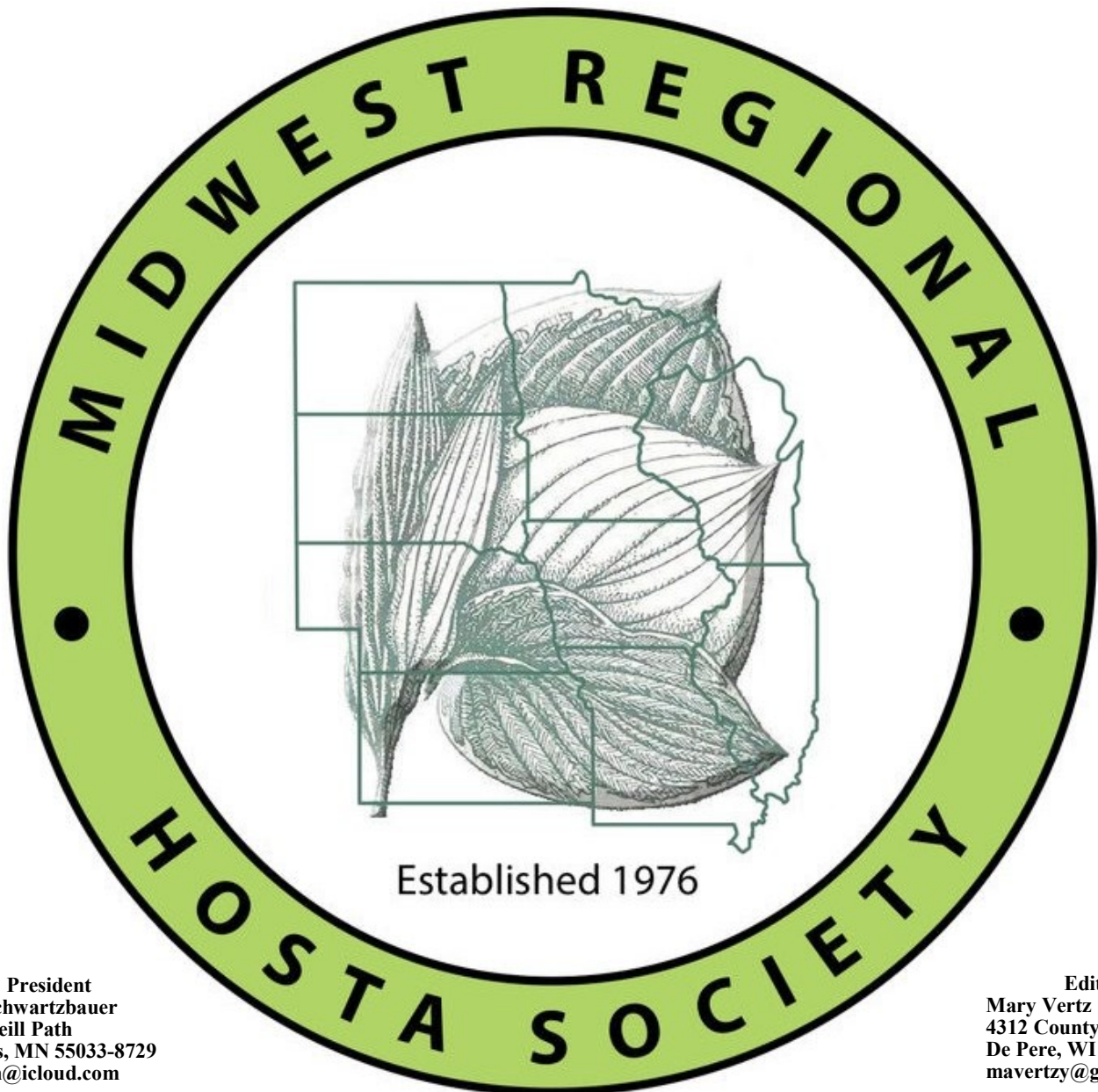
MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 88

SPRING 2020

Winter Symposium 2020 Review



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MRHS President's Message

Well, 2020 has proven to be a whirlwind of emotions thus far. As we gathered together in early February at our Winter Symposium that Jack Barta so expertly planned and headed up for us, (thank you, Jack, a job well done as usual) we had joy, excitement and an eagerness for what the year ahead would bring. Side conversations revolved around plans we each had for our gardens this coming year and the anticipation of our summertime convention.

These emotions have quickly and unexpectedly turned to sadness, fear, and uncertainty as the Covid-19 virus has unyieldingly made its way around the world and caused a global pandemic. Never did I think I would use the term global pandemic in describing a life's fact instead of the newest cinematic blockbuster. But for right now, it is our truth. Many plans have been halted or changed as a result of this phenomenon, and we have not escaped untouched.

Due to health concerns for all and the resulting social distancing and need to stop this beast as quickly as possible, the MRHS board together with the Northern Illinois Hosta Society convention planning committee, as made the decision to postpone this years convention. It was not something that anyone wanted to do, nor was it an easy decision to make with regard to the possible financial implications to the MRHS, the countless hours the planning committee has poured into it, and the many hours of preparation and tremendous disappointment the garden hosts must feel. But, with great thanks to Barbara King and Mike Kraus, the co-chairs of the planning committee, they were able to 'postpone' the convention until next summer without financial impact. Full refunds will be made to all, and the Winter Symposium convention vendor vouchers will be able to be used next year.

The MRHS board will have its annual meeting via email on or about the scheduled time -yet to be determined at this moment-, and it is my feeling that the DeEtta Montgomery Award recipient announcement will be carried over until next year so that person may experience the full accolades that honor garners.

The actions of the board this year will be unprecedented, and to be perfectly honest, I am not sure how some of the resulting changes to usual practice fits into our bylaws. But I assure you that we will make every attempt to conduct the business of the society to the best of our abilities

within the perimeters of those bylaws, making alterations only as the pandemic situation forces us to do so.

Certainly this affects everyone in one way or another, but the bottom line had to be everyone's safety, and we know that next summer we will be all the more excited about and grateful for such an event. So mark your calendars now! It will be here before you know it. And we will again be back to the emotions of joy, excitement and eagerness.

And remember, regardless of social distancing and other limitations set by your local government, you CAN still go outside! So get out there and pull those weeds, move a plant or two, breathe in the fresh air. Enjoy the beauty and peacefulness those activities bring. We've never needed our gardens more.

Mary Schwartzbauer
MRHS President
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The Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) extends a warm welcome to our new 2020 members! We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the many friendly hosta enthusiasts in MRHS today. Hosta people are friendly, knowledgeable people, willing to share their experiences on the genius hosta as well as many other gardening topics. Glad to have you join us! Kathy Rustad, MRHS Membership Chair

Linda Blackburn
Carol Brittain
Barbara Carrera
Mike Carter
Libby Greanya
Kimberly Hoffer
Carol Janusick

SaySana Songuharm
Annette Stormont
Wanda Supanich
Sue Topp
Chad Vidden
Marc Whitefield

New MRHS Website password,
effective May 15th:
SHADY2020

Meet Your Board Members

In their own words!

It occurred to the board at our last meeting that there are many new members on the board, and it would be good to introduce ourselves to you and tell you a little something about us. As we want you to be sure, we represent you and your interests in the society.

Please know that we are here for you and want to hear your ideas and concerns. Are there things you would like the society to do? Or not do? Are there issues that should be addressed?

We hope that by telling you a little about ourselves, you will feel you can approach us and realize that your thoughts and ideas are important to us and we will treat them with care.

Mary Schwartzbauer

MRHS President

Editors Note: Mary's bio was printed in the Fall 2019 *Hosta Leaves*.

Kathy Rustad, Membership Chair—

With just a small city lot and a brown thumb, what's a girl to do? Thanks to Mona Keehn, she introduced me to Shades of Green Hosta Society.

In need of filling my time after retiring in 2013 from IBM as Software Development Manager in the Rochester, MN, I was eager for a challenge. First, as Hostality Director and currently the President of Shades of Green Hosta Society, I am humbled to serve such a fine group and blessed to learn from an amazing group people.

Soon, my dreary landscape became green...and blue....and gold! I am still transforming this tiny lot whenever my husband, Scott, will give me some of his green grass.

Sharing the friendship plant is such a joy but the people of Shades of Green Hosta Society, Midwest Regional Hosta Society and the American Hosta Society truly warmed my heart.

Mona Keehn, Treasurer—

I have been a hostaholic since 2006 when Shades of Green Hosta Society was started. I was introduced to hostas at a friend's house shortly before that and the rest is history. We live on a two acre lot in Rochester, MN and have zone envy when traveling to other parts of the Midwest since we are in zone 4, however hostas grow extremely well for us.

Asked what my favorite hosta is, I have to break it down into color varieties, since it is hard to pick just one. H. 'Key West' and H. 'Fire Island' are favorite yellows. In the green family, I have to choose H. 'Niagara Falls'. Blue has to be H. 'Neptune' and for the variegated variety, I would choose H. *montana* 'Auroemarginata' and H. 'Liberty'. I cannot take all the credit for our gardens, since my husband Rick, works right alongside me – or me alongside him – hard to say which way that goes!

I am also a member of the Minnesota Hosta Society, American Hosta Society and am currently the treasurer for Midwest Regional Hosta Society. I am also a member and treasurer of Shades of Green Hosta Society.

David Dettmann, Secretary—

David is a member of AHS, MRHS, and the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society (ROHS). He has been the ROHS Treasurer/Membership Chair for about 7 years, co-chaired their 25th Anniversary Gala, coordinated several annual garden tours/auctions, and provided his own garden for tours. David has extensive experience of Board of Director involvements, including United Way, American Cancer Society, Hospice of Central Iowa, Federal Employees Credit Union, concert associations, and bike clubs.

Full honest disclosure is that his garden is named "Good Intentions" as hosta, companion plants, trees, rocks and other objects are placed without much planning and attention, including not completing clean-up, weeding, mulching, and labelling. Thus, there are many of the "same" plants among his 800+ hostas—at least they share the common name of 'I Don't Know/Remember.' The term "other objects" includes multiple cracked bowling balls from his other primary hobby (there are 16 healthy ones in the house). Deer and several very invasive weeds are very determined, a scourge, and objects of disaffection and disdain...and receive various remedies and also phrases not used in church.

"Good Intentions" also refers to a long-planned mega-project of a large screened room over a to-be-developed pond and stream, as well as

recoveries from losses of several large hickory trees. David (neuropsychologist, 33 years) and spouse Betsy (speech pathologist, 21 years) are both retired from multiple professional roles and positions at the Knoxville/Des Moines, IA VA Medical Centers since 2015 and 2012, respectively. One could assume that "Good Intentions" would have evolved with the increased available time for leisure pursuits, but alas, other activities compete for this time. Sun and vegetable gardens, fruit trees, as well as living in a log home next to a bike trail and the largest lake in Iowa all require attention, time and money. A safe prediction is that if David ever starts hosta hybridizing, he will want to call the first plant "Good Intentions," but it will be an empty pot. Without a label.

Pat Gwidt, Vice-President—

I retired as a Bank Marketing Officer, which covered eleven offices in different communities for a large bank corporation. My interest in hostas started at The House of Hostas owned by Ron Williams, during lunch hours with a co-worker.

My interest has continue with the involvement of being President of Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin from 2008-2016, Co-Chair of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention held in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 2014, Region 5 MRHS Director 2014-2017, Best of Show 2016 for H. 'One Man's Treasure', Vendor Chair and Co-Hosta Show Chair 2019 American Hosta Society National Convention held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and elected Vice President for Midwest Regional Hosta Society at their June 2019 Annual Meeting. I also serve as a Senior Hosta Show Judge.

As a Wisconsin Master Gardener my interest in gardening is not only hostas, I enjoy many types of gardening.

Barry Ankney, Past-President and Webmaster—

Barry is a retired school and clinical psychologist who has been growing hostas for over 40 years. After retiring from his full-time profession, he owned and operated White Oak Nursery in Washburn Illinois. He sold the business in 2017 and is now fully retired and living in the Chicago suburb of Oakbrook Terrace. He remains active in local, regional and national hosta societies. He is the webmaster for the Central Illinois Hosta Society, Webmaster and Immediate Past-President of the

Midwest Regional Hosta Society, and Vice-President, Publications for the American Hosta Society.

Mark Rekoske, Director at Large—

I started gardening at a newly constructed suburban Chicago house in 1980 on a flat barren lot. I planted a number of small trees and set about planting beds of sun-loving annuals and perennials. By the early 2000's I noticed the trees had grown to shade many of the garden beds and I explored the use of shade perennials.

My family and my work occupied much of my time, but I found resources on the internet. I had always grown a few hostas and I was drawn to them for their easy care. Soon, I learned of the tremendous variety of hostas available by mail order and I was hooked. Through internet forums I learned of hosta societies and conventions. I met Tom Micheletti and visited his garden which was just a few miles from my home.

By the time I joined the Northern Illinois Hosta Society in 2007 I had a collection of about 50 hostas. I enjoyed the camaraderie of the group and attended my first MRHS convention in 2008. I have served as vice-president of the NIHS for the last eight years and have been responsible for its programs, garden walks and bus tours.

I worked with Lou Horton to present the last three MRHS Winter Scientific Meetings held in the Chicago area. I'm privileged to have met so many great gardeners, hosta growers, collectors and hybridizers through my membership in the MRHS.

Glenn Herold, AHS Regional Director—

I first became interested in hostas a few years after starting my teaching career at Illinois Central College and developing the ICC arboretum. I thought the arboretum needed a hosta display, so I contacted Roy Klehm to see if he could help out. He shipped me dozens of hostas! I continued to add to the collection through connections with Tom Micheletti and local nurseries. Later the arboretum became a display garden for the American Hosta Society.

Tom asked me to speak at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting (now Winter Conference) shortly after its inception. I'm not sure how many years in a row I did this, but it was a lot.

I was also a founding member of the Central IL Hosta Society. I served as its president from 1995-96 and was co-chair of the 1996 AHS National Convention in Peoria.

I still do not consider myself a hosta expert, but have found my niche and gladly continue to serve the MRHS. What keeps me going is the many friends I have made within the group.

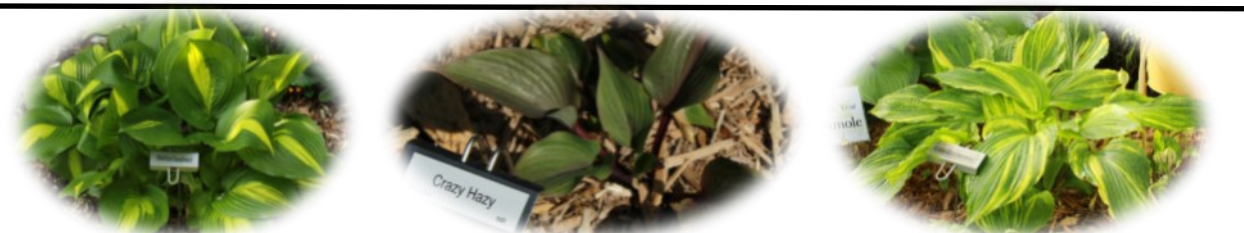
Mary Vertz, Newsletter Editor—

My gardening fever comes from my Mother who always had an abundance of flower beds on the family farm. I still have pieces of the two hostas she grew on the farm— *H. 'Lancifloia'* and *H. plantaginea*. They made the trip from the family farm to my gardens when my husband Terry and I bought our first house in 1979. From there they (along with some other hostas and favorite plants) moved to the house we built and live in today.

My hosta collection started to explode starting about 2000—we became 'empty nesters'. Hostas followed me home from local nurseries and the House of Hostas. They were drawn to my 'hostaholic' syndrome. 'Hostaholicism' drove me to go beyond local sources to online resources. Soon hostas from Jim's Hostas, Naylor Creek, Plant Delights, In the Country Gardens, Bob Solberg and others, were flocking to my gardens. More and more grass was lost to make homes for them.

We are members of the Green & Gold Hosta Society, Bay Area Daylily (BAD) Buds, Green Bay Botanical Gardens, MRHS and the American Hosta Society. Our gardens have been featured on a Green Bay Botanical Garden Walk, at the 2014 MRHS and the AHS 2019 conventions in Green Bay.

Today our gardens feature over 1,000 hostas, 900 daylilies, numerous other perennials and whimsical garden art. In addition to being a 'hostaholic', I've become a 'seedaholic' - numerous hosta seeds migrate into our house for the winter and start sprouting in January! Hostas still follow me home from conventions and flock to our house through the mail.



Seed Auction

The MRHS Board extends a heartfelt thanks to all who donated to the seed auction at the Winter Symposium.

- ⇒ Judy Bollig,
- ⇒ Randy Goodwin,
- ⇒ Mark Mulzer,
- ⇒ Green and Gold Hosta Society
(Audrey Temmer, John Petit, and the Green & Gold Hosta Society Display Garden)
- ⇒ Jim and Holly O'Donnell
- ⇒ Owen and Sue Purvis,
- ⇒ Mary Vertz
- ⇒ Jeff and Marie White
- ⇒ Dan Wols

Also a big thank you to anyone who donated seeds that morning. Things were a bit hectic so not everyone's name was recorded.

Speaking of seeds, did you win some seeds that produced some exciting seedlings? Have some of them really caught your attention? Will you be the next new hybridizer on the block? Share your seedling pictures with fellow members by sending them to me at mavertzy@gmail.com. I'll post some of them in the fall newsletter.



Winter Symposium in Review

By Mary Vertz

Another great Winter Symposium! Thanks to Jack Barta and Glenn Herold for organizing it all. Sit back and enjoy the review—hope it brings back memories for those who attended. If you didn't attend, hope it inspires you to attend next year.

Friday Night Hostatality

The night started out with several rounds of 'Hosta Bingo' where players had a chance to win 'Hosta' cash for use at either the MRHS Convention or the AHS Convention.



After all the bingo prizes were given out, everyone enjoyed catching up with fellow hostaholics.



Saturday's Seed

Auction was well organized by Cindy Tomashek and Mona Keehn



Saturday's Speakers



Bob Solberg started off the day with his 'Hosta Basics' by asking the question:

**“ HOW LONG
HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?”**

This was followed by a discussion on what the AHS Glossary has to say about hostas.

Have you ever wondered the correct use of the name 'hosta'?

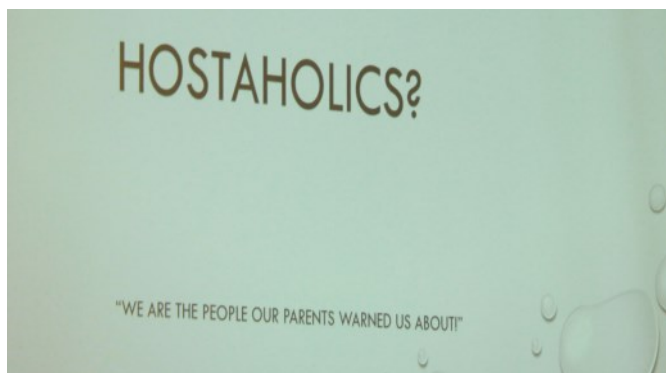
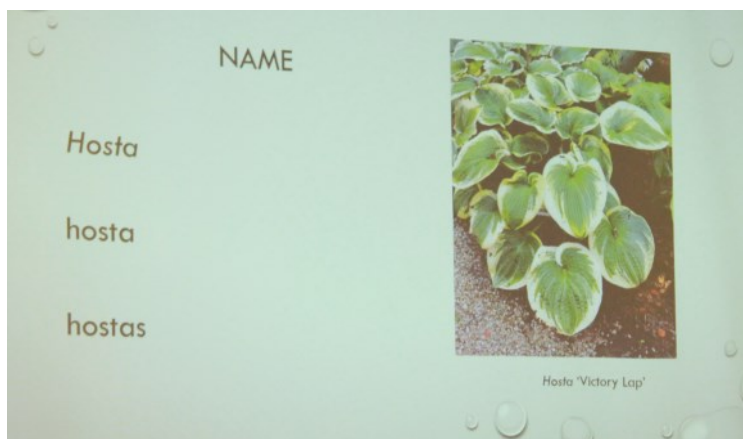
Bob cleared things up for us:

Hosta is the genus name. It is used when naming a specific hosta. Ex. *Hosta* 'Victory Lap' or *H.* 'Victory Lap'.

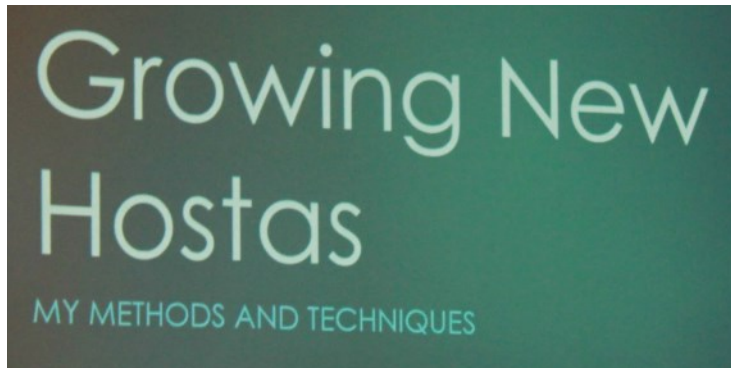
Hosta is the common name used when referring to hostas in general terms. It is never capitalized unless it is the first word in a sentence.

Finally, hostas is the plural form of the common name of hosta.

He then discussed there is “some truth in everything”. Asking the questions: “Are hostas really shade plants?” and “Why do blue hostas turn green?”. After showing some pictures of his trip with Mark Zilis to Japan; discussing small vs large; divisions vs tissue culture; what is a hosta's purpose in life; how to tell if your hosta is happy; and the three basic colors of hostas (blue, gold and green), he left us with this thought:



Next up was Jeff Moore who shared his methods and techniques for



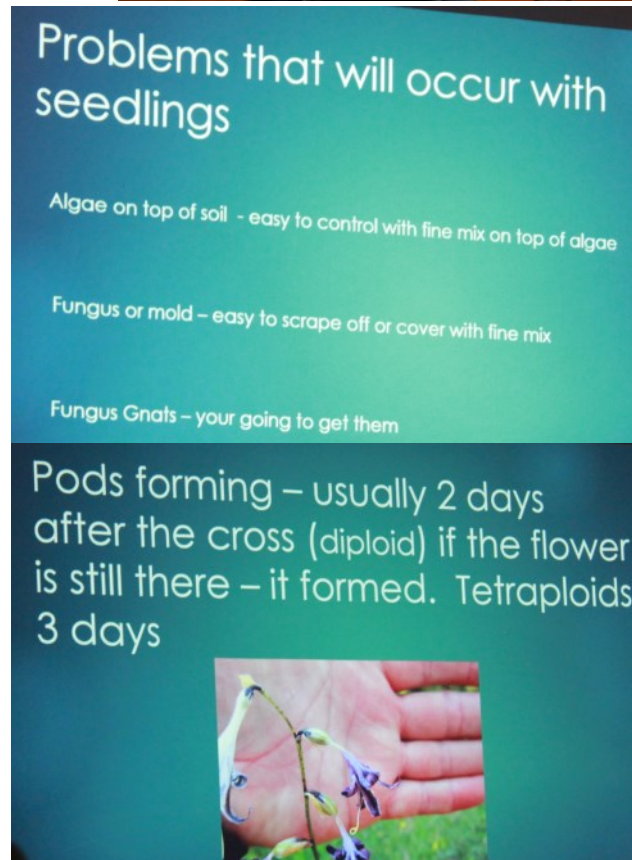
He shared his methods for growing hostas from seeds. First up was ‘Where do seeds come from?’ You can collect your own or get them from others—friends, seed auctions, online purchase, etc. Next was a discussion on planting mix, planting methods and problems with seedlings.



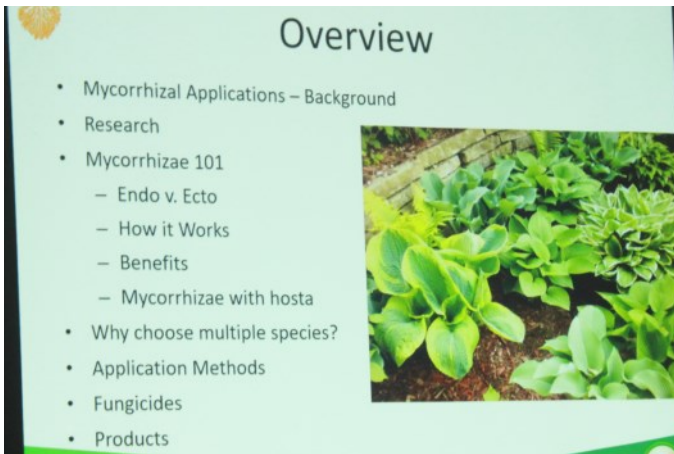
A discussion on lighting needs, touched on the Experts lighting needs.

Jeff then shared his hybridizing methods with us. He went over pollination, when to expect to see hosta seeds form, and that he harvests the seeds 8 weeks after the date of the cross.

Jeff also generously donated eight of his seedlings for an auction.

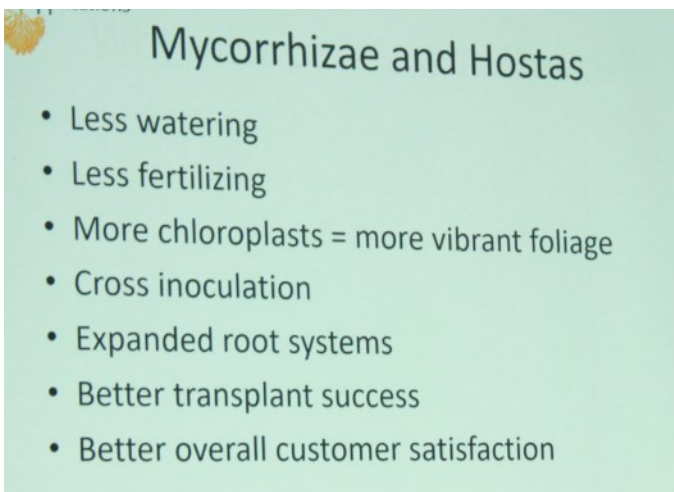
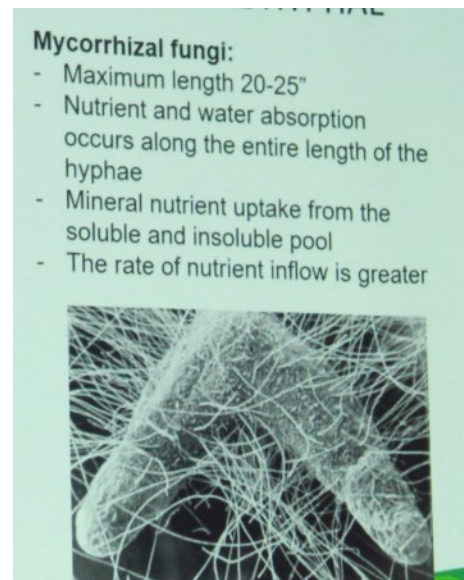


After learning about all things hostas from Bob Solberg and creating new ones from Jeff Moore, Michael Hull talked about a way to create better root mass for our hostas using Mycorrhizal fungi.

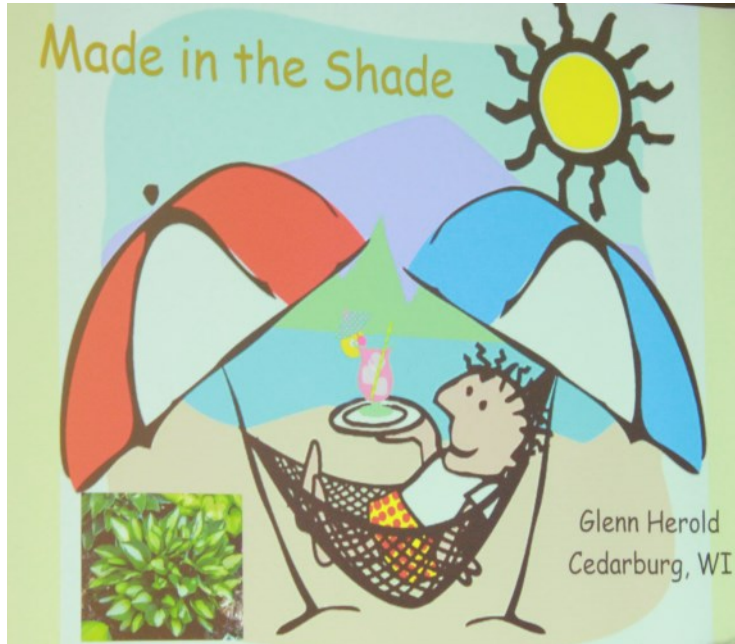


Other benefits are:

- **Increase Tolerance to Pests and Pathogens**
- **Increased Secondary Metabolite Production**
- **Increased Soil Quality**



Not available for retail market yet but eventually will be.



Next up was Glenn Herold discussing shade. He posed the question:

‘Is shade a Liability or Asset?’

It is soothing/restful. Makes one slow down. Has fewer weeds. And requires less water. But all shade is not created equal.

There is deep shade, partial shade, and dappled shade. Then of course the opposite—full sun.

There are various types of plants to select for each shade type. And within the various types, there are many varieties. Use a selection of plants to emphasize shapes and color.

Shrubs



Herbaceous Perennials



Understory Trees



Michael Greanya introduced us to ‘Alpine Plants and Rock Gardening’. After showing various Alpine plants that grow in the Alpine Tundra, he showed how to create rock gardens for growing Alpine plants in your backyard.



ALPINE PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

- Extended root systems and dwarf size plants
- Thrive in gravel soils with low nutrients
- Withstand high UV light and dry conditions
- Able to withstand very cold temperatures, and are heat intolerant
- Large size bloom and profusion of flowers, sometimes dwarfing the plant and flower quickly
- Able to reproduce in a short timeframe
- Have developed leaves with wax, hairs and thick substance to reduce evaporation

To mimic the Alpine soil conditions hyper-tufa can be used. It is a manmade rock, often used for pots, troughs or other garden items. But it was first invented for Alpine gardens. Or if you’re lucky enough to find tufa, a natural porous rock that can be used. There are two commercially available sources in North American so may be hard to get.



But sometimes tufa shows up in unexpected places!



After adding some scree (fragmented rock) and hard labor, you’ll have a rock garden for the Alpine plants to thrive in!



Mark Zilis finished up the day with
‘Hostas, the Good, the Bad and Underappreciated’

First, he shared photos of some of his favorite hostas.



H. 'Halcyon'



H. 'Sagae'



H. 'June'

Then he shared photos of the 2019 convention in Green Bay.



He showed the bad: draw-string effect, sawtooth margin, and spring desiccation burn.

Not sure if these were the ‘Good’, ‘Bad’ or ‘Underappreciated’.
What’s your guess?



Who Is Nicolaus Thomas Host?

by Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

As an astute reader, you may discern a connection between the name Nicolaus Thomas Host and one of your favorite shade plants. You might even go out on a limb and surmise that the genus *Hosta* was named after Mr. Host. In so doing, you would be correct. But the road travelled to get to that point is rather curvy, with a few switchbacks as well.

Nicolaus Host (1761-1834) was a Croatian botanist and physician, a combination of careers that was very common in times past, due to the use of plants in medicine. He was the personal physician of Francis II, who was the last Holy Roman Emperor, ruling from 1792 until 1806 when the empire was dissolved after the defeat at the hands of Napoleon. Host authored *Flora Austriaca*, a manuscript on grasses, as well as other works. He was the first director of the botanical garden at the Belvedere Palace in Vienna.

Though hostas were first known in Europe in the early 1700s, the generic name that we now use was not accepted until 1812. Engelbert Kaempfer published an account with drawings of two hostas in 1712 but called one 'Joksan, vulgo gibboosi Gladiolus Plantaginis folio' (meaning, the common Giboshi with plantain-like leaves) and the other 'Gibboosi altera' (meaning, the other Giboshi.) In 1780 Carl Thunberg, a former student of Carolus Linnaeus, attempted to update some of the plants described by Kaempfer by using binomials. Thunberg classified them with the genus name *Aletris*. However, the plant that Thunberg described was not the same as that described by Kaempfer. He also realized that they differed significantly from other members of the genus *Aletris*, so he placed them in the genus *Hemerocallis*. A little while later, in 1791, Sir Joseph Banks published Kaempfer's drawing under the name *Hemerocallis japonica*. Because of the confusion in identifying the plants being described, none of these names were considered valid under the rule of Priority of Publication.

The first living hostas to be seen in Europe were raised from seed sent to France sometime between 1784 and 1789. They were first described as *Hemerocallis plantaginea* by French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck. These plants made their way to England where they were used extensively by the noted landscape designer Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932.) She referred to them as *Funkia grandiflora*, a name that had been used by Philipp von Siebold in his nursery in the latter half of the 1800s.

When the first hostas reached Europe they were placed in the genus *Hemerocallis*, even though Thunberg had named his original plant *Aletris*. To further muddle the issue, in 1812 Sir Edward Salisbury proposed the genus *Niobe* for the plant we now know as *Hosta plantaginea*, and the genus *Bryocles* for all other hostas. Also in 1812, the Austrian botanist Leopold Trattinick (1764-1848) proposed the generic name *Hosta*. According to the International Code for Botanical Nomenclature, this should have been rejected, for the name had previously been used by Baron N.J. von Jacquin for a genus in the Verbenaceae family now known as *Cornutia*. That too was invalid, for Linnaeus had formerly published a valid name for that group in the Verbenaceae. Since all previous names were considered invalid, the genus became *Hosta*.

Just a few years later, in 1817, the genus name *Funkia* was published. Since this post-dated the publication of *Hosta*, it was considered invalid, although it is still commonly used as a vernacular name in Europe. Finally, in 1905, the International Botanical Congress, which is the governing body for plant names, voted to conserve the name *Hosta*. This made Trattinick's name *Hosta* valid, some 83 years after he had first proposed it.

Now you know. Aren't you glad you asked?

References:

Aden, Paul, ed. and compiler. 1988. "The Hosta Book." Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Grenfell, Diana. 1990. "Hosta: The flowering foliage plant." Timber Press, Portland, OR.



Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget for 2020

Category	(Per By-Laws: Fiscal Year is January 1st to December 31st)			
	2019 Actuals (2020 Budget Items)	2020 Actuals (as of 4/16/2020)	2020 Budget (approved June 2019)	2021 Budget (to be approved July 2020)
Income:				
2020 Membership Dues	1,020.00	220.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
2020 Convention	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	
2021 Convention				5,000.00
Income-Interest	25.34	3.92	0.00	25.00
2020 Winter Symposium	1,780.00	3,444.00	5,000.00	0.00
2021 Winter Symposium				5,700.00
Seed Auction		1,828.00	0.00	500.00
Subtotal	2,825.34	5,495.92	11,500.00	12,725.00
Expense:				
Award-Montgomery	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Awards-AHS	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
2020 Grants	300.00	300.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Liability Insurance	461.00	0.00	454.00	461.00
Membership Expense	0.00	11.00	200.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	1,500.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Newsletter	324.15	0.00	750.00	750.00
Internet Site	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Winter Symposium 2020	1,000.00	5,711.46	5,000.00	0.00
Winter Symposium 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,700.00
Subtotal	3,585.15	6,022.46	8,004.00	8,711.00
Net Totals	(759.81)	(526.54)	3,496.00	4,014.00
Account Balances: Current				
Checking	15,411.64			
Savings	57,036.65			
Total Assets	72,448.29			

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
ELECTRONIC MEETING MINUTES**

October 16-24, 2019

(Minutes to be approved at Winter Board Meeting)

Call to Order:

October 16, 2019, 5:50 a.m. by President Mary Schwartzbauer. Also present for this electronic meeting were Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Secretary David Dettmann, Region 5 Representative Glenn Herold, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Director at Large Mark Rekoske, and Webmaster/ Immediate Past President Barry Ankeny.

President Schwartzbauer called this electronic meeting to discuss and act on a request by the Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS) to hold the 2022 MRHS Convention. The request and attached feasibility study were submitted by SOGHS President Kathy Rustad, and was forwarded to all MRHS Executive Board members on noted date/time. Mary Schwartzbauer noted that per by-laws, this meeting call serves as the five day notice for Executive Board action, and that Barry Ankeny would provide one vote total in his two Board positions. It was also noted and clarified that currently there is no identified host for a 2021 convention, and that Past President Barry Ankeny and Vice President Patricia Gwidt are responsible for seeking convention arrangements.

Discussion ensued regarding specific financial provisions of the cost and risk-sharing between the host convention (SOGHS) and MRHS. Two motions, with an amendment for the second, were developed on October 23, 2019, 10:38 p.m.

- 1. MOTION by David Dettmann to accept the SOGHS request to host the 2022 MRHS Convention, as submitted by Kathy Rustad; support by Mary Vertz. Motion approved by all, except with Kathy Rustad abstaining.**

2. MOTION by David Dettmann to split the 2022 Convention live auction proceeds with the host group SOGHS 50/50 with MRHS; support by Mary Vertz. Motion amended by David Dettmann that any financial losses/shortcomings would be covered by the SOGHS portion of the live auction proceeds; support by Patricia Gwidt. Motion approved by all, except with Kathy Rustad abstaining.

Meeting Adjourned on October 24, 2019, 9:57 am. upon completion of all discussion and action on the electronic meeting call by President Mary Schwartzbauer.

Respectfully submitted by David F. Dettmann, Secretary



2020 Hosta of the Year Dancing Queen

Check out the Hosta Growers website for details on the 2019 Hosta of the Year. While there check out the past Hosta of the Year. How many do you have in your garden?

http://www.hostagrowers.org/Hosta_of_the_Year.html



Dancing Queen, early Spring



Dancing Queen

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

31 January 2020

Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield Hotel

Call to Order – 5:00 pm

(Minutes to be approved at Summer Board Meeting)

Present: Mary Schwartzbauer, President; Pat Gwidt, Vice President; David Dettmann, Secretary; Mona Keehn, Treasurer; Kathy Rustad, Membership Chair; Glenn Herold, AHS Region 5 Representative; Mark Rekoske, Director at Large; Barry Ankeny, Webmaster/Immediate Past President; Mary Vertz, Newsletter Editor.

Absent: None.

Guests: Jack Barta

Officer Reports:

Secretary—

June 13, 2019 Executive Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve-Mona, second-Barry. Motion approved unanimously.

October 16-24, 2019 Executive Board Electronic Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve-Barry, second-Mary V. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer—

Checking account balance is \$17,238.22.

Savings account balance is \$57,032.73.

Outstanding bills will be speaker fees and rooms for the Winter Symposium.

Past President—

Nothing to report.

Region 5 Representative—

MRHS summary was submitted to AHS. Facebook "likes" increased from 450 (6/2019) to 563 at this time. Facebook site is managed by Glenn. Discussion of how to increase and expand social media involvement by MRHS members and general public, especially younger aged users. Suggestions included adding "How did you learn about MRHS?" to the membership form and identify social media sites used by younger people.

Director-At-Large—

Nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor—

Deadline for next newsletter is April 1, 2020. Contributions, including anything about the Winter Scientific Symposium, are welcomed and appreciated. Brief bio descriptions of Board Members, especially the new members, are requested.

Webmaster—

Password will make the annual change on or about 4/1/20. Information about the 2020 Convention is on the site. Convention schedule will need to be updated due to increased space for the leaf show. Hosta show rules are approved but not yet posted.

Membership—

Members paid to date thru 2020 are 224, in comparison with 2019 (261) and 2018 (262). New memberships were 223 in 2019, and 5 so far in 2020. Renewal reminders were sent to 41 people. Membership roster has 13 invalid e-mail addresses; these will be followed up with USPS mailings. Current membership form does not request home or cell phone number information; will add this item. Discus-

sion of developing affiliation status with AHS and Regional Societies.

New Business:

- 1. Recognition for attendance at Winter Scientific Symposium and/or donation of seeds for the auction was discussed; currently nothing is given. Motion by Kathy that a \$10 vendor voucher to be used at the next MRHS Convention, starting in 2020 be given to attendees of the Winter Scientific Symposium, Second by Pat. Vendors will submit vouchers received to reimbursement from MRHS. Motion approved unanimously.**
- 2. Discussion of potential uses of our current treasury balances included supporting existing AHS Display Garden requests, development of Regional Display Gardens, development of AHS Display Gardens within MRHS boundaries, and support other related garden projects. Pat reported a request for support was received from the Green & Gold Hosta Society for \$300 to be used for their AHS Display Garden in Green Bay, WI. Motion to accept the grant request for \$300 by Mona, Second by Barry. Motion approved unanimously.**

It was suggested that an article highlighting grant requests and possible support by MRHS be written for the next newsletter. Pat will contact all local society presidents to promote the grant programs. Another suggestion was to ask 2020 Convention attendees for ideas and perspectives for possible Regional Society display gardens.

- 2. Local hosta society President or proxy meeting at MRHS annual conventions was discussed as potential effective method to increase communication, involvement, and representation with local societies. Will need to check if this can be added to the 2020 Convention agenda and if there is room for such a meeting.**
- 3. Ad placement in the AHS Convention book was discussed. It was noted that MRHS sponsors (\$1500 per 6/13/2019 meeting approval) a hostality night at the convention, so we are offered a free ad, which was accepted.**

4. **Montgomery Award was discussed. An awardee was nominated by Kathy, Seconded by Mona. Motion approved unanimously.**

Vice President Pat will obtain the formal framed certificate to be awarded by President Mary at the 2020 MRHS Convention.

2. **Convention status was discussed. Rochester, MN requested and was approved to host the 2022 Convention. No known sites for 2021 and 2023; suggestions for exploration and recruitment were for Milwaukee, WI-area (Glenn & Jack will discuss), Madison-Fond du Lac, WI-area (Owen Purvis possible contact), and Dubuque (Ed Schultz possible contact). Discussion also included identification of who (MRHS or AHS) signs convention contracts, description of MRHS resources for conventions, and reviewing the Convention booklet.**
3. **Support of local hosta societies was discussed, including potential reimbursement for local society Presidents to attend MRHS conventions and the possible Presidents meeting. Determination was to wait until after the next Convention to gauge attendance by local Presidents/representatives to see if reimbursement might help.**

Winter Scientific Symposium report given by Co-Chair Jack Barta. Registrations are 82 for the 2020 event. Jack thanked MRHS for the \$1000 underwriting of the event.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Glenn, Second by Mary V. Motion approved unanimously, and meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Dettmann, Secretary.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTSOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

ELECTRONIC MEETING MINUTES

March 13-26, 2020

(Minutes to be approved at Summer Board Meeting)

CALL TO ORDER:

March 13, 2020, 5:34 pm by President Mary Schwartzbauer. Also present for this electronic meeting were Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Secretary David Dettmann, Treasurer Mona Keehn, AHS Region 5 Representative Glenn Herold, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske, and Webmaster/ Immediate Past President Barry Ankney.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Schwartzbauer called this electronic meeting to discuss the planning of the 2020 MRHS Convention in Lisle, IL for July 2020 in the context of the current, developing, and evolving Covid-19 pandemic. Issues raised focused on the pandemic uncertainties, contract obligations to the Doubletree Hotel, safety and health of the many different groups of people involved, and possible solutions and consequences. Electronic discussions and meetings with the Convention Co-Chairs Barbara King & Mike Kraus, Doubletree Hotel, Vice President Gwidt, Immediate Past President Barry Ankney (who signed the contract for the 2020 Convention), President Schwartzbauer, and AHS attorney (reviewing another issue) resulted in two options. First option is to wait out the situation to see if the virus problem clears enough by May 1-June 1 to proceed with the Convention and with enough confidence that attendance will be supportive. The second choice was to postpone the Convention to 2021. The risk in the first option is that the current contract obligates MRHS for approximately \$27,000 for the meeting, vendor, and lodging rooms, and food, with a \$3,000 deposit already paid toward that obligation; it is unknown and uncertain at what date the hotel would allow us to postpone without consequences. The Convention hotel offer to postpone the 2020 Convention is not likely to be available for a lengthy period, although not specified when it might expire. Barry con-

firmed that the 2021 Convention planning for Fond du Lac, WI had started with committee developments, searches for tour gardens, and hotel recruitment, but that no contracts had yet been signed, and thus could be moved to 2023, since the 2022 Convention is already set and is being developed for Rochester, MN. Further discussion with the Doubletree Hotel resulted in their offer to postpone the 2020 Convention to 2021 with two mutually-acceptable date periods (July 8-10, 2021 or July 15-17, 2021), a requirement of an additional \$3,000 deposit to be combined with the \$3,000 deposit paid for 2020, and that the contract will not be cancellable. The hotel acknowledged that if the pandemic or similar unusual catastrophic circumstance occurred in 2021, there would be consideration again for postponement.

- 1. MOTION made on March 26, 2020 by David Dettmann that MRHS postpone the 2020 Convention scheduled for Lisle, IL at the Doubletree Hotel to 2021, with specific date choice (July 8-10, 2021 or July 15-17, 2021) provided by the hotel to be decided by the host committee, and that the required additional \$3,000 deposit to be paid to the hotel to be combined with the already-paid \$3,000 deposit toward the Convention obligations. Second by Patricia Gwidt. Approved unanimously.**

The 2020 Winter Scientific Symposium Attendance \$10 Vouchers earned by attendance at the Symposium were to be used at the 2020 MRHS Convention. Kathy Rustad will have the 2020 Attendance Vouchers for use at the Convention vendors extended to the now-rescheduled event in 2021.

President Schwartzbauer will attempt to have an impossibility clause included in the contract with hotel for 2021, and she will be signing the contract.

Appreciation was expressed to the 2020 Convention Co-Chairs Barbara King & Mike Kraus, the Convention planning and other committees, tour garden hosts, and the entire Northern Illinois Hosta Society for their understanding, patience, support, flexibility, and work with this very challenging situation.

ADJOURNED on March 26, 2020 at 5:56 pm upon completion of discussion and action on the electronic meeting call by President Schwartzbauer.

Respectfully submitted by David F. Dettmann, Secretary

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)

Submit completed application to:
Pat Gwidt
MRHS Vice-President
N1619 Fox Ridge Trail
Keshena, WI 54135

Educational Fund
September 18, 2015

Or email application to Pat at:
pathen33@yahoo.com



**Make plans to attend
“Hostas Chicago Style”
July 8-10, 2021.**

**Later this year check the Midwest Hosta Society website for
exciting details about “Hostas Chicago Style” 2021!**

<http://midwesthostasociety.org/>

Editor’s Note:

If you have any suggestions, pictures to share, or articles for future newsletters, please send to mavertzy@gmail.com.

If you are getting this newsletter by “snail mail”, please help save money and request your next newsletter be sent by email.

Happy Spring! If you have any articles or pictures to contribute to the next edition of *Hosta Leaves*, please send them to mavertzy@gmail.com.

As my mother (and probably many other mothers among us) use to say “Many hands make light work”.

Everyone stay safe. See you at the next event.

Mary

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

We invite you to join over 3,000 other hosta enthusiasts as members of the American Hosta Society. Members receive two 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. A third publication is the Online 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. Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family—check their website for multi-year rates. Joining AHS will enable you to attend our national conventions.

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

Advertise in the
Hosta Leaves

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	3⅞" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3⅞" 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	3⅞" x 4½"
1/8 page	30	50	3⅞" x 2"

Contact Mary Vertz for publishing deadlines and more details. (920) 336-7678 or mavertzy@gmail.com

Wanted

Host Societies for future MRHS Conventions. If your local group has never or not recently hosted a convention, please consider doing your part by hosting one of these convention openings in 2023, 2024, 2025.

Contact Pat Gwidt, MRHS Vice-President
at pathen33@yahoo.com

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Kathy Rustad
4011 10th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
kdrustad@gmail.com

Membership

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice or on the Subject Line on your email . If it says “2019”, 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 250 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 (\$10 per year) to Kathy Rustad, 4011 10th Avenue NW Rochester, MN 55901 for email newsletters. \$30.00 (\$15 per year) for paper copy mailed newsletters.

Due to health concerns of COVID-19 this summer’s convention "HOSTAS CHICAGO STYLE" hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, is postponed to next year 2021. Join us next year in Lisle, IL for 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! Until then stay safe.