

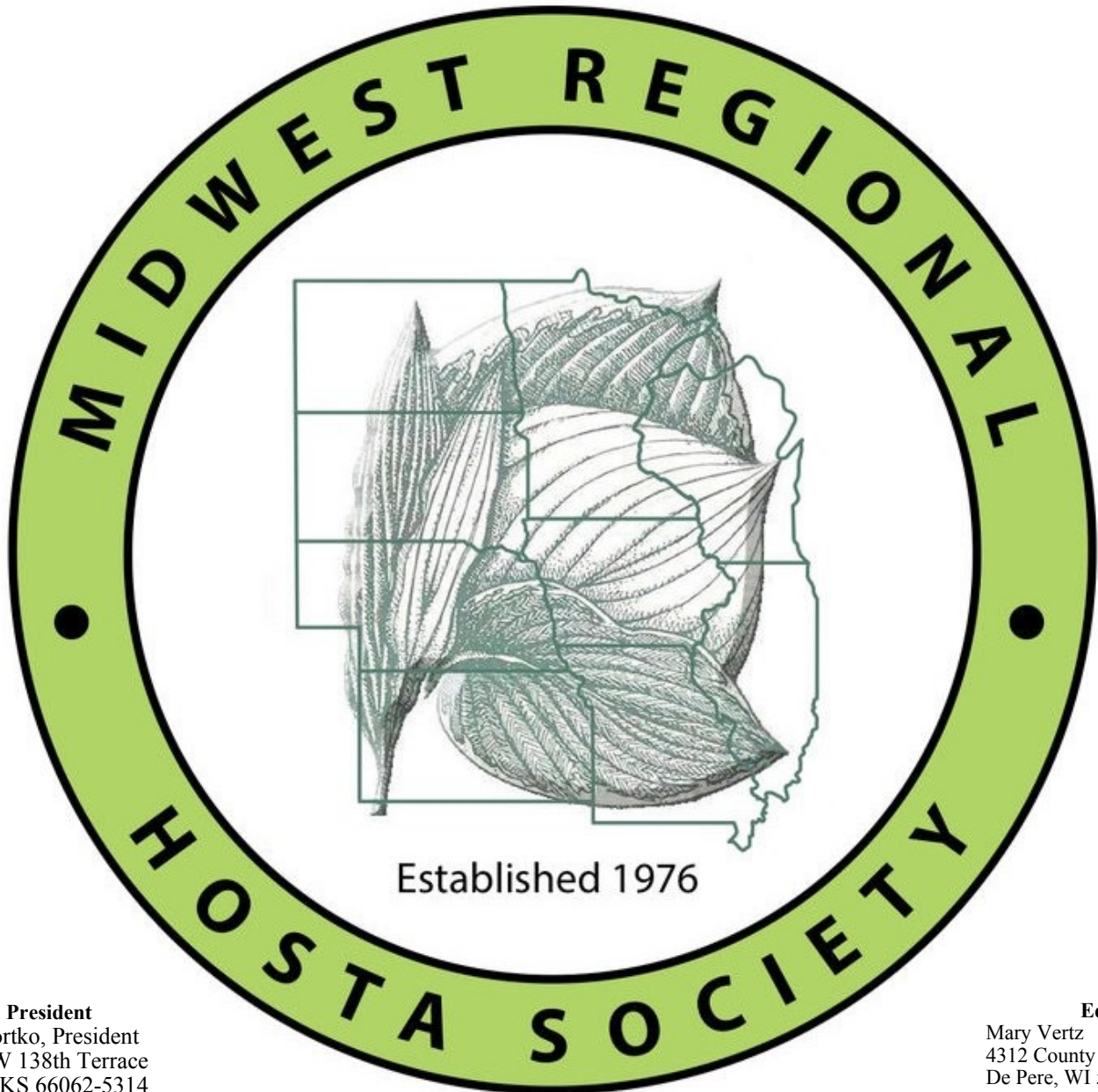
MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 91

FALL 2021

WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM
LISLE, ILLINOIS "HOSTAS CHICAGO STYLE"



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MRHS President's Message

Fall, 2021

Greetings fellow hostaphiles. Being the new kid on the block let me start by introducing myself. I have met at least some of you while stationed behind a vending table at an MRHS or AHS convention, or maybe when speaking to your local hosta club. Or maybe in KC when I co-hosted the 2017 MRHS convention. More recently I have transitioned from being a hosta grower to a tissue culture lab. And while I have served on the board at the local level and at the national (AHS) level, this is my first stint at the regional level so I ask for your patience as I come up to speed. Luckily, I am blessed to be surrounded by well-seasoned MRHS board members who know the ropes.

I soooooo look forward to introducing myself in person. It has been way too long since we were all able to come together face to face for a hosta event. And during this time of relative lockdown, we have lost some of our dear hosta friends and MRHS members. The recent passing of Jack Barta (while I was still reeling from the passing of Gary Lindheimer at Naylor Creek) hit me especially hard. It just reinforced the old notion that an interest in hostas is what initially brings us together, but it is the people that keep bringing us back. It really comes down to those life-long relationships that get formed, all as a result of a “silly plant”. I will certainly miss hanging with Jack during hosta events but am re-committed to truly savor the time that we as individuals and as a collective hosta society spend together in the future.

And speaking of the future, I hope for some return to normalcy in the hosta world. And yet planning for future events ensures an emotional roller coaster ride of ups and downs. Shortly after our summer virtual annual membership meeting in June we began planning for an in-person 2022 Winter Symposium event. At the time COVID case rates were trending down nationally and things looked encouraging. Shortly thereafter the delta variant kicked in and COVID case rates began to rise again. Now case rates are trending back down again, and we hope and pray that trend continues. Long story short, we know we can't predict the future, but we plan while hoping for the best. We have set the date and finalized negotiations with the hotel. Thanks to Glenn Harold for being our local “boots on the ground” in dealing with the hotel. Mary Schwattzbauer has our speaker lineup set. Jim Morrow has agreed to chair the seed sales and silent auction. Jeff Moore will be donating some of his prized seedlings for the silent auction. Wisconsin Hosta Society President Phillip Timm will take care of our Friday evening hostatality event. And Dave Collura will again be handling registration. It amazes me that Jack Barta singlehandedly took care

of many of these activities himself. Luckily when it “takes a village” we have a number of willing and able volunteers to help. In the meantime, you can trust that we will monitor local, state, and federal health guidelines to help keep everyone safe.

Our Winter Symposium will be held at the same venue as our last event in 2020 – the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel. For any of you football fans, the date (Sat Feb 5, 2022) was specifically chosen as it is the off week between the conference championship games and the Super Bowl. A Winter Symposium informational brochure may be found in this newsletter as well as a registration form. The same info will be posted on the MRHS website. I encourage you to register early.

I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee in February.

Hosta’ly,

Rob Mortko

MRHS President

robmortko@gmail.com

16370 W. 138th Terr

Olathe, KS 66062



H. ‘Paradigm’



H. ‘Backyard Monster’

To: Region 5 Hosta Societies President’s

From: Pat Gwidt, Vice President of Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Each year Midwest Regional Hosta Society budgets funds for the American Hosta Society National Display Gardens within Region 5. At the board meeting in June 2021 only two Societies applied for grant money and they received \$300.00 to be used for the necessary needs. Region 5 has fifteen Hosta Societies, please fill out the grant information found on page 26 and return to Pat Gwidt, N1619 Fox Ridge Trail, Keshena, WI 54135 or email pathen33@yahoo.com

Cures for Plant Blindness

By Glenn Herold

The term “plant blindness” was coined in 1998 by American botanists James Wandersee and Elisabeth Schussler. They defined it as the “inability to recognize or notice the plants in one’s environment.” Living in crowded cities and ever-increasing time spent on electronic devices have made many people plant blind. They can’t see the critical role that plants play in human affairs or can’t appreciate the flora around us. Plant blindness has unfortunate consequences as studies have shown that a connection to nature has both physical and mental health benefits. Just in the last 18 months there has been an increase in depression due to Covid-19 isolation, while those who spent more time in nature had fewer serious complications if they did contract the virus.

We humans tend to notice creatures that are most similar to us. If there is a rabbit in our backyard, we are more likely to notice it than the trees that may fill the yard. Since animals are more similar to us than plants, we also have the idea that animals are more interesting and worth saving than plants. We would rather save the polar bear than the endangered ghost orchid in Florida. Plants make up 57% of federally endangered species in the United States but receive less than 4% of endangered species funding. It is common for universities to have animals as sport team mascots, but very few have plants. I did find a few exceptions, including the Ohio State University Buckeye, the Syracuse Orange, and the Delta State Fighting Okra (really!). No school has yet to name a hosta as its mascot.

The future of the human race depends on learning from and interacting with plants. Our food supply is facing challenges from population growth, water scarcity, reduced agricultural land, and climate change. We are so used to getting what we need from the grocery store that we forget how it got there. Plants, the source of life, only become important to us when we can’t get what we want. However, they are far more important than just sustenance. We spend billions on research to find new drugs, but over 28,000 plant species are used medicinally. How many more are there, primarily in tropical rainforests, that will never be discovered because their habitat has been destroyed by man and they have gone extinct?

Indigenous Americans view plants and animals as equals with humans. They often tell the story of Nanabozho, first man, the equivalent of the biblical Adam. The first task he was given by the Creator was to assign names to the other creatures. This emphasized the importance of those

other living beings in his life, and the need to communicate with them. Indigenous Americans believe that loss of a relationship with nature could result in species loneliness, a deep sadness stemming from estrangement from the rest of creation. Nanabozho's second assignment was to learn from those creatures, because they had been on earth longer and learned to thrive.

How do we become less plant blind? One way is to increase the frequency and variety of ways that we see plants, starting at a very young age. Take a hike in nature with your children and grandchildren. Plan a trip to a public garden. Go to an art museum and take note of the flora in the paintings. Plant a tree or shrub or buy a houseplant for each of your children and help them to take care of it. Give your children tasks in the yard, such as tending a vegetable garden or a garden of miniature hostas. Have your family contribute to the planting of a tree in your community. Most cities have some type of legacy tree program.

It is important to get youth involved early so that plant blindness does not persist. For many years our daughter had nothing to do with plants, but now that she has her own home, she not only has landscaped the yard and made her dining room a solarium, but she and her partner have a vegetable garden that puts mine to shame. Sometimes the seed waits many years to germinate. Unless it is sown, though, that will never happen.



Glenn Herold



Glenn Herold

Hiking with our daughter in 1984 and 2017.

In Memoriam: *Gary Lindheimer*

By Don Dean (Reprinted from Oct, 2021 'AHS eNewsletter')

“In My Hands”

“I will likely die with a hosta in my hands,” came close to the truth. These were the words stated by Gary Lindheimer each year around this time as he and I began our annual review of hosta photos for selection to send to the tissue culture lab. These words fell close to reality. Gary passed away August 6th, 2021, following a day of sending out hosta orders. Gary is survived by his daughter, Nicole Lindheimer of New York City, his trusted dog Snickers, and the two resident goats Midnight and Cyclone.



Gary's Facebook profile



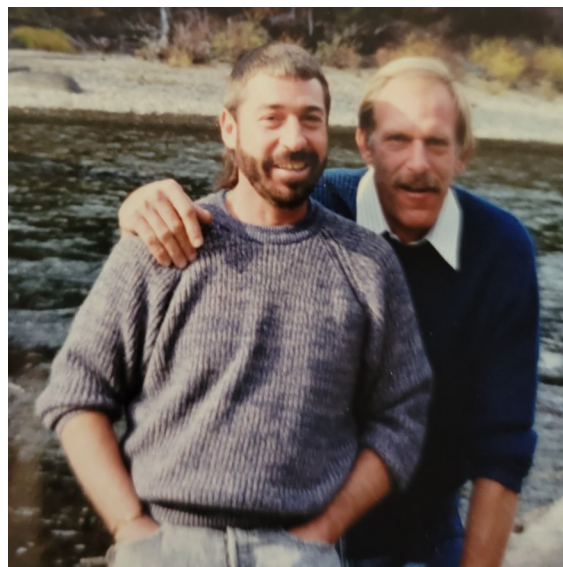
Zephyr & Snickers August 2021

Photo by Marco Fransen



Midnight & Cyclone or Cyclone & Midnight?
Photo from one of Gary's Facebook posts

Gary with business and life partner, Jack Hirsch, were co-owners of Naylor Creek Nursery in Chimacum, Washington. Jack preceded Gary in death by a couple of years. Many met Gary throughout the 90's at the American Hosta Society annual convention while gathered around the pair's vending tables. An audience would be filled with knowledge of hostas but stay to listen to his many stories resplendent with his own style of humor. Change over time was a continuous trait, but these things remained constant for those who met Gary.



Gary & Jack

Photo from Marco Fransen

Naylor Creek was a go to source for hostas as well as Epimediums, Jack's passion, during the last decade of the 20th century. Epimediums were dropped from their many offerings. Their focus went solely to hosta. Contacts with American hosta hybridizers began by the late 90's. By the beginning of the new millennium, Naylor Creek was offering exclusive availability to these breeders' newest releases. Shortly thereafter, a partnership with Marco Fransen from the Netherlands was solidified. European hybrids came to the U.S. from the many contacts established overseas, and stateside cultivars traveled across the ocean to Europe. After 2010, vending at national conventions came to an end for Naylor as dependability of required vehicles and travel distance became issues. The year 2014 marked the end of a much-anticipated paper copy of Naylor's catalog. The Naylor catalog took the form of double sided, color printed sheets of hostas offerings resplendent with photos. Advances in the electronic era surpassed the time, cost, and effort to create the annual catalog. The catalog went electronic. Facebook was explored by Gary in the twenty-teens; more U.S. hybridizers were pointed out to him. Soon these newly found hosta breeders had their work made available through Gary's efforts. As often happens, discovering Facebook led to his collaboration with Jeff Moore to kick off the highly successful group, Hosta Buyers Guide. Gary posted there regularly. A young man, Zephyr Petrick, joined Gary at Naylor Creek picking up much of the work Jack had done prior to Jack's decline and soon became a valuable friend as well as being an invaluable worker. Gary embraced change, adapting and then adopting in order to bring many unique plants while having hosta in hand.



Zephyr, Peter, Gary

Photo from Marco Fransen

Many across this nation and beyond benefited from Gary's depth of hosta knowledge, entertaining stories, and special humor. His impact upon the hosta world across the continents has been extensive. Gary's audience over the years will certainly miss his adept social skills regardless of venue. Folks were always met with friendliness. Those people who had become friends over the years will miss him greatly. A small handful had become an extension of his family, often garnering monikers indicating the relationship. They held him in their hearts and certainly will not forget. All will remember Gary with a smile upon their faces.

Hostas aside, Gary will be remembered for his selfless devotion to others. His relationship with Marco and Joyce Fransen was family like in every regard. Gary and Marco were like brothers one day and like father-son the next. Gary provided loving, round the clock care for Jack during his decline with dementia. Gary even made sure Snickers the dog had the best available cancer treatment.

Naylor Creek has come to an end, but Gary's legacy will hopefully carry on through the efforts of a handful working behind the scenes. Patience will serve one well while waiting to see what the future brings to the world of hosta.



Jack, Gary & Marco Fransen

Photo from Marco Fransen

In Memoriam: *Jack Barta*

By Tom Micheletti

(Reprinted from Oct, 2021 'AHS eNewsletter')

Jack Barta became one of my best hosta friends many years ago. I don't remember when or which convention I first met him. I do remember spending time visiting with Bob Kuk who was also a friend of Jacks, standing near his vending booth at conventions. We would talk about everything hosta, the plants, the hosta business, the convention, and many other topics. After Bob's passing it was just Jack and I. Being a fellow teacher, Jack and I also had that in common and would converse about our teaching experiences and careers. We would meet periodically at a "halfway" point between our homes at a Pizza Hut in Racine, Wisconsin. It had a pizza buffet lunch, and anyone who knew Jack knows he loved his buffets. We would visit all afternoon long after the lunch buffet had closed.



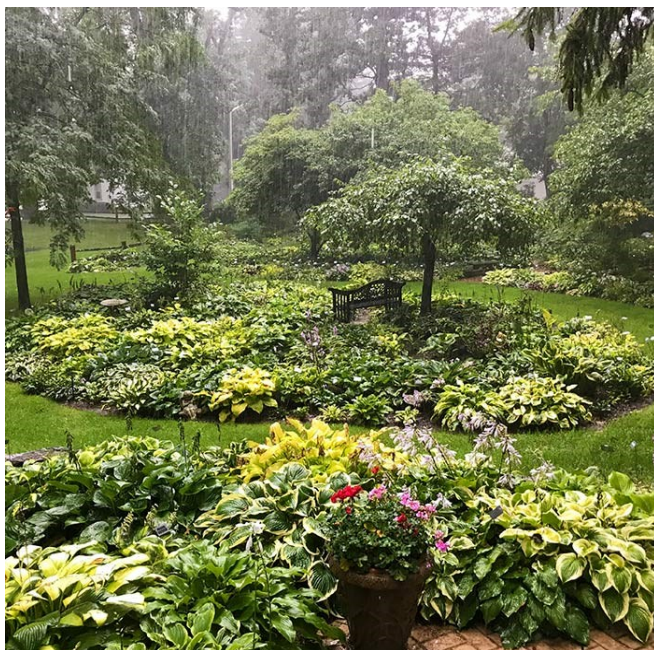
Jack & Tom at Hosta College 2015
Photo by Joan Altman (with permission)

It was during our organizing of the 2013 AHS Convention in Milwaukee that our friendship cemented itself. We would speak over the phone several times a week with thoughts and ideas. Since this was the first AHS convention with "drive yourself" to gardens, it took a lot of logistics and planning. For years after the convention, we spoke regularly over the phone even till just before he went into the hospital for a lengthy stay due to his anemia. He was always trying to figure out how and where to organize another convention. He took over the Midwest Regional Winter Meeting holding it in the Milwaukee area after it was discontinued in the Chicago area. He even had it planned for February 2022 after postponing it due

to COVID in 2021. Jack was also one of the cofounders of the Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society, serving as one of its early presidents, and again later as president trying to resuscitate it before it closed down due to lack of participation.

Of course, Jack can be remembered carrying the small black satchel inside of which was his beloved Chihuahua dog. He had a few different ones during the course of time I knew him. The dogs would just sleep in the satchel and not make any noise. He would bring them out periodically to show them off. When we went to a meal Jack would leave with a true “doggy bag”, with portions to feed his dog.

Pink Photo by Jack



Picture of Jack’s yard from his Website.

Jack was passionate about all thing’s hosta. It was his life. His whole yard was planted in hostas and he was a popular vender at conventions. He would often have people lined up at his booth with hostas in hand ready to purchase them. He could be found working with his beloved hostas any time he could dig in the soil. Winters were trying for him because he wasn’t able to work with hostas. He did keep busy with hostas, researching new varieties and ordering them to offer for sale the next year.

Winter was also a time he would cultivate his many hosta friends and have lengthy phone conversations. There was no such thing as a short phone conversation with Jack! But they were always informative an interesting.



Photo from Jack's Website

Jack was at times outspoken and a bit rough around the edges for some, but he had a big compassionate heart. Tim Triolo, Jack's nephew said, "My uncle had a unique way of expressing himself at times". He may have come across as rough, but he was always willing to step in and offer a helping hand. I remember regularly seeing him at convention hostality rooms helping clean up at closing times. He was also a judge at hosta shows and would pitch in with those when he was able.

I could continue with many memories of my friendship with Jack. There are so many to recall. He was a one-of-a-kind person. My fondest memory was at a Midwest Regional Convention a few years ago when Jack was awarded the DeEtta Montgomery Award for service. He was sitting near me and the emotion and look of surprise that shown on his face was a memory I will never forget. He was so proud of that award and I am so proud of him for having so deservedly received it. I will miss you, Jack!



MRHS 2018 Convention
Photo by Mary Vertz

In Memoriam: *Jack Barta*

By Glenn Herold (Reprinted from Oct, 2021 'AHS eNewsletter')

For the last 10 years, Jack and I have lived less than a mile apart, but our relationship started in the 1990's when I was teaching horticulture at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL. I don't remember exactly when I first met him but no doubt it was either at the 1991 MRHS convention in Peoria or the 1998 AHS convention, which I co-chaired. He was quick to volunteer hostas to add to our collection at the college arboretum, an offer that I often took advantage of.

My wife, Terry, and I purchased our house in Cedarburg, WI in 2010, nine months before moving in. During that time Jack would regularly check up on our house and take photos of the yard, which we still have. He would water plants as needed, especially when we brought a U-Haul full of containerized plants a month before relocating. He did all this without ever being asked.

Over time, Jack and I became good friends. We would often go out for breakfast or make a buying trip to a nursery. In the early days I would be buying a lot of plants to fill up our one-acre yard. Jack would use his wholesale buyers discount and then I would reimburse him, if he remembered to give me the bill. After a trip to Beaver Creek nursery, I returned home and excitedly exclaimed to Terry that "Joe



Photo from Jack's Website

Witt was only \$70!" She had no idea what I was talking about until I explained that it was a large plant of *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt'.

Those of you who know Jack and me will not be surprised to hear that my breakfast conversations with him were often one-sided. Most of the time the topic was about plants. I would pick his brain about hostas and he would pick mine about just about any other plant. Every once in a while, we would get onto other subjects, and I would get snapshots of Jack's life. Even though he talked a lot, it was rarely about himself. He was very private with his own life. Like me, Jack's career was in teaching. He taught music and conducted band and orchestra on the high school level. I also learned that he was an accomplished photographer, especially during his college days at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI from 1965-69. I

was surprised to hear that he even photographed the “ice bowl,” when the Green Bay Packers beat the Dallas Cowboys on December 31, 1967, in minus 13-degree weather.

At first glance, one might wonder how Jack and I became good friends, for we are nothing like each other. In our younger days, he was a musician, I an athlete. He is a talker, I am quiet. He preferred bacon and eggs for breakfast, I would usually order blueberry pancakes. He was Roman Catholic, I am Lutheran. Politically he leaned right, I left. Maybe that’s why we talked about plants all the time, for we could never agree on anything else!

When the MRHS put a hold on the Winter Conference several years ago, Jack immediately said to me that we needed to get it started again. Single handedly he found a hotel, lined up speakers, planned the hospitality, and then named me as co-organizer. He didn’t care about promoting himself, he just wanted to promote hostas.

Jack would never hesitate to tell you how he felt about something, and often that would rub people the wrong way. But no one in the hosta world had a bigger heart and more giving soul. We would walk around his garden, and he would exclaim, “Oh, you’ve got to have that!” and he would dig up a clump for me. Almost half of the hostas in my current garden came from Jack. I gave him one in return, the cultivar ‘Friends’ that I obtained several years ago. Three years ago, he received the MRHS DeEtta Montgomery Award for his lifetime service to the Midwest Region. We are fortunate that we were able to do this. Thank you, Jack, for being my friend, for sharing your knowledge of hostas (and your plants), and for all you have done. We will miss you.



Photo from Jack’s Website



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY 2022 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

**Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Sheraton Milwaukee
Brookfield Hotel**

The MRHS Board remains committed to promoting hosta education, as the society subsidizes this annual event. Despite rising hotel costs we are holding the hotel room rate and the registration fee at the same level as our last conference in 2020.

Registration Fee: \$59 (MRHS members); \$69 (non-MRHS members)

Hotel Rate: \$105 per night including buffet breakfast (plus taxes) – rate applies to Fri and/or Sat night

The Symposium features:

- **Friday Evening Hostatality**
- **Hosta Seed Sale and Silent Auction featuring Jeff Moore seedlings**
- **Saturday Symposium with 6 speakers** on a variety of hosta and related gardening topics:
 - Ø **Tammy Borden – Designing with Hostas in the Garden**
Discover how to incorporate hostas into your garden landscape in pleasing ways following proven design principles. Tammy will also highlight adding a designer touch with hostas in containers, those that can be grown in sunnier locations, and some of her favorite companion shade plants.
 - Ø **Glenn Herold – Introduction to Conifers: Identification, Culture, and Use**
When is a “Pine” not a pine? Which conifers can I use in my shade garden and how are they best used? Is a ginkgo a conifer or a deciduous shade tree? Learn the answers to these and many other questions about conifers and gain a better appreciation for these (almost) ever-green plants.
 - Ø **Brad Herrick – Invasive Jumping Worms: The Impact of a New Soil Invader**
Non-native, invasive jumping worms are modifying soil and plant communities in native forests and backyard gardens. This talk will share information about how jumping worms move around the landscape, how to identify them, and what we can all do to slow their spread.
 - Ø **Rob Mortko – Drip Irrigation – A Greener Approach to Watering**
Drip irrigation is an extremely efficient method of delivering water to a plant. This talk will cover the evolution of drip irrigation concepts and the practical application in the home landscape. Plus, the one missing piece of info that the drip irrigation manufacturers don’t tell you.
 - Ø **Bob Solberg – Hosta Growing Secrets from HostaBob**
A professional hosta grower's tips for ensuring new hosta purchases maximize their growth potential. Yes, hosta babies and older mature divisions have different needs. Also, creating the perfect garden microclimate for your hosta collection.
 - Ø **Mark Zilis – The Past, Present, and Future of Hostas**
Looking back on 40+ years of the hosta world and where we are headed.

[Please register early. Late registration fees start January 17, 2022.](#)

[The hotel room rate is guaranteed through Jan. 21, 2022. Use this link to make a reservation online:](#)

Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2022

Or phone the Sheraton at 1- 888-627-8235 and mention “Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2022” or mini hotel code “WST” to get the special group rate.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
2022 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM**

Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

Hotel Rate: \$105 per night + tax (includes breakfast for registered hotel guests)

Deadline for hotel reservation is January 21, 2022

To make a reservation online use this link:

[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2022](#)

Or call the Sheraton at 1-888-627-8235.

The group code is "Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2022" or mini-hotel code "WST".

The Winter Hosta Symposium will be held at the Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield Hotel - 375 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005.

Symposium check-in is Friday afternoon from 4 to 6 PM, and Saturday morning from 7 to 8 AM. The Symposium will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday.

Hostality will be on Friday Night at the Sheraton Hotel

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Fill out registration form completely.

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

Note that MRHS memberships are family memberships, so individuals in the household are also MRHS members.

NAME _____ MRHS member Non-MRHS member
ADDRESS _____ If a non-MRHS member,
CITY _____ your \$10 surcharge will be applied to a
STATE/ZIP _____ 1-year membership in the MRHS.
PHONE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
FAMILY MEMBER(S) ATTENDING _____

Registrations postmarked after January 17, 2022 require a \$10 late registration fee per person. Cancellations before January 5, 2022 will be sent a full refund. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 17, 2022. (Except for medical emergencies or death in family)

Number of members _____ X \$59 = _____
Number of non-members _____ X \$69 = _____
Number of late registrations _____ X \$10 = _____
TOTAL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRHS

Mail your registration form and check to:

Dave Collura, 13600 W. Graham St., New Berlin, WI 53151-2572

Questions about registration? Contact Rob Mortko (robmortko@gmail.com) (913) 206-6939

Remembering Summer.. As we brace for the winter's cold breezes, take time to reminisce about the beauty of summer past....



H. 'Dinner Mint'



H. 'Backyard Monster'



Borders and Boundaries



Vertz Garden

Dreaming of Sum-

mer.. As we endure winter's snow, take time to check out the coming MRHS hosta events:

Gather with fellow host-a-holics for a mid-winter 'hosta fix' in early February at the Winter Symposium in Milwaukee, WI.

Then celebrate summer in style with fellow host-a-holics in mid July at "Hosta Chicago Style" in Lisle, IL

Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATES!

MRHS CONVENTION IN LISLE, IL

JULY 14 – 16, 2022

HOSTAS



CHICAGO STYLE

THE COVID-CURSED CONVENTION first planned and postponed for 2020, then 2021, is now officially back on the MRHS schedule for ***July 14 – 16, 2022, in Lisle, IL.*** More and more people are getting vaccinated each week. It follows that Covid 19 should not be the threat that it has been, and convention attendees will be ready to enjoy immersion in all things hosta!

Hostas Chicago Style will be hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society (NIHS) which is preparing a warm Chicago-style welcome for you as it is working to make this convention unique: Fabulous gardens where other distinctive plants and unique designs share top billing with hostas. Speak-

ers you haven't heard before who will educate and excite you. Two new cultivars from Bob Solberg as choices for a gift hosta. An evening garden visit. A Chicago-style pizza party.

Of course, other features you've always expected at hosta conventions remain part of this one. Reunions with hosta friends. Vendors with the newest hosta cultivars, companion plants and other items for your garden. Hosta leaf show. Seedling display. Good old-fashioned midwestern hospitality.

Headquarters for this do-not-miss event will be the same as for the 2013 Hostamania! MRHS Convention that you enjoyed so much. The name has changed from Lisle Hilton to Doubletree by Hilton, but it's the same accommodating place that gave you comfortable rooms at a great price, excellent food and super service. It's well-located near the Lisle/Naperville exit from I-88, 25 miles west of downtown Chicago.

The last MRHS Convention, in 2019, was an adjunct of the AHS Convention in Green Bay, but in 2022 it will once again be the stand-alone event that many of us look forward to each year. Make plans now to be part of it. To add to your enjoyment, come early (or stay afterwards) to visit some of the area's spectacular attractions. Either way, join fellow hosta lovers from throughout the Midwest in Chicago's western suburb of Lisle for *Hostas Chicago Style, July 14 - 16, 2022. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!*

More detailed information and online registration will be available in early 2022 on the MRHS website, midwesthostasociety.org.

Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

Midwest Hosta Society

2022 Lisle, IL Hosted by Northern Illinois Hosta Society July 14-16,
2023 Rochester, MN
2024 Fond du Lac, WI

American Hosta Society

2022 Minneapolis, MN June 8-11
2023 Ames, IA

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2021

Call to Order of the 2021 MRHS Annual Membership Meeting by President Mary Schwartzbauer at 6:30 pm via zoom electronic video conferencing. Board members in attendance: Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Secretary David Dettmann, Treasurer Mona Koehn, Region 5 Representative Glenn Herold, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske, and Webmaster and Immediate Past President Barry Ankney. Board members absent: None. Membership attendance on file via zoom registration list.

Officer Reports:

Secretary's Minutes from Membership Meeting held June 13, 2019, were identified for review. Motion to accept submitted Minutes by Mona Koehn, seconded by Kathy Rustad. No discussions via chat. Approved by 97% of zoom voters, 0% nays, 3% abstain.

Secretary's Minutes from March 11, 2021, Board Meeting were reviewed and discussed. Highlighted topic was the Board approvals of two Grant requests for \$300 each for hosta display garden enhancements. Grant applications to improved signage were submitted by the Green & Gold Hosta Society for the Green Bay Botanical Center hosta display garden, and by the Illinois Central Hosta Society for the Illinois Central College hosta display garden. The misspelling of Glenn Herold's name was corrected. Motion to approve Minutes as submitted and corrected by Mona Koehn, seconded by Kathy Rustad. No discussions via chat. Approved by 100% of zoom voters.

Treasurer's Report by Mona Koehn noted the 2020 end of year actual balances of \$12,195.54 (checking) and \$57,040.49 (savings) for total assets of \$69,236.49. Balances as of today's meeting were \$13,995.51 (checking) and \$57,043.78 (savings) for total assets of \$71,039.29.

Membership Report by Kathy Rustad showed 257 memberships paid thru 12/31/2021, which is an increase of 3 from last year. The membership section has information of the term lengths.

Region 5 AHS Representative Glenn Herold described submitting reports to AHS and monitoring the 1,600 people who are members of the MRHS Facebook page. He continues to encourage people to join MRHS.

Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske had nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz requested submissions of articles for the next newsletter as a substitution for the usual convention news which isn't being created due to the postponement for Covid-19 safety reasons.

Webmaster Barry Ankney has found a replacement for the Webmaster role to assume this function later this summer and will ask the incoming new President to appoint that person to the position. Barry is assuming a larger role with the American Hosta Society, so had requested this change.

Budget proposal prepared by Treasurer Mona Koehn was published in the newsletter and in the invitation for this meeting sent to the membership. Zoom discussion reviewed the differences in convention projections from 2021-2022, noting a more conservative projection given the unpredictable Covid-19 future. Motion to approve the submitted budget by Barry Ankney, seconded by Glenn Herold. Approved via zoom vote, 97%, 0% nay, 3% abstain.

Officer Elections: Barry Ankney was the Nominating Committee Chair and identified the open offices of President (incumbent Mary Schwartzbauer declined to run for second term due to other obligations) and Region 5 AHS Representative (Glenn Herold reached term limit), and the current officers of Vice President (incumbent Patricia Gwidt) and Secretary (incumbent David Dettmann) as having completed their first term of two years. The Nominating Committee submitted the following:

President-Rob Mortko

Region 5 AHS Representative-Kay Dye

Vice President-Patricia Gwidt

Secretary-David Dettmann

Nominations from the floor: None.

Motion to accept the presented Officer slate was made by Don Dean, seconded by Mary Vertz. Approved via zoom vote, 98%, 0% nay, 2% abstain.

Review of Upcoming Events:

2022 Winter Symposium will be held in Brookfield, WI on Saturday February 5, 2022, with co-coordinators Jack Barta and Glenn Herold.

2022 MRHS Convention will be held in Lisle, IL July 14-16, 2022. Co-Chair Mike Kraus reported the “Hosta-Chicago Style” event will feature a Chicago-style pizza party Thursday night, wonderful garden tours (west Chicago suburbs Friday, north side Chicago Saturday), afternoon seminars on Friday and Saturday, a convention plant (choice from 2 hybridized by Bob Solberg), a nice assortment of vendors, and hotel convention accommodations at the Double Tree Inn by Hilton. Registration will likely start in January 2022.

2023 MRHS Convention will be held in Rochester, MN July 13-15. Chair Joe Parisi reported that two gift plants (*H.* ‘Dreaming’, a sport of *H.* ‘Liberty,’ and *H.* ‘Pursuit of Happiness’) have been identified and are being grown. Several tour gardens have already been committed, and planning meetings have started.

Miscellaneous Information:

Vouchers earned from prior attendance at the 2019 Winter Symposium will be honored at the next MRHS convention held.

MRHS grant application form for enhancing hosta display gardens is located on the MRHS website and in the newsletter. Members were encouraged to make applications, as four grants per calendar year can be approved.

New Business: No items were submitted, nor did questions come from the membership via the zoom chat room.

Adjournment at 7:04 pm with motion by Barry Ankney, seconded by David Dettmann. Approved via zoom vote, 100%.

Meeting concluded and adjourned with a short break to hear Guest Speaker Bob Solberg’s presentation “Hostas Up, Down, & Upside Down.”

Respectfully submitted,

David Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 9-11, 2021

President Rob Mortko called an electronic (e-mail) board meeting on September 9, 2021. Attendance: Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Secretary David Dettmann, Treasurer Mona Koehn, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske, Webmaster Barry Ankney, and Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer. Absent: Kay Dye.

Motion by Barry Ankney to have MRHS provide flowers for the Jack Barta memorial service and have President Rob Mortko take Glenn and Terry Herold out to dinner in conjunction with the memorial service on September 17, 2021. Rob Mortko will be attending the service along with Glenn & Terry Herold who were extremely close friends with Jack Barta. Jack was a long time very valued active contributing member of MHRS. Second support by Kathy Rustad. Voting sequence in favor were Mark Rekoske, Mary Schwartzbauer, Mary Vertz, Mona Koehn, Patricia Gwidt, Rob Mortko, and David Dettmann. No votes in opposition.

Rob Mortko confirmed the approval of the motion on 9/11/21 at 9:19am which closed the e-mail meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Dettmann, Secretary



H. California Gold Rush



AHS 2022 National Convention is ON!!

The phoenix is rising and Hosta Vision 2020 is re-born as Hosta Vision 2022. The Minnesota Hosta Society is excited to bring hostaphiles together once again June 8-11, 2022 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW located in Brooklyn Park, MN.

Mid-October the convention website (hostavision2022.com) will be operational. Included will be both convention and hotel online registration using a charge card along with a downloadable registration form for check payment to “Hosta Vision”.

Spring Memories....



H. 'Volcano Island'



H. 'Sugar Plum'

Category	2019 Actuals (2020 Budget Items)	2020 Actuals (2021 Budget Items)	2021 Budget (approved June 2020)	2022 Budget (approved June 2021)	Comments
Income:					
2020 Membership Dues	1,020.00	770.00	100.00	100.00	
2020 Convention	0.00	0.00			
2021 Convention		0.00	5,000.00		
Income-Interest	25.34	8.22	25.00	10.00	
2020 Winter Symposium	1,780.00	3,444.00		0.00	
2021 Winter Symposium		0.00	500.00	500.00	
Seed Auction		828.00	0.00	600.00	
Subtotal	2,825.34	5,050.22	5,625.00		
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	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Liability Insurance	461.00	421.00	461.00	450.00	
Membership Expense	0.00	40.00	200.00	100.00	
Miscellaneous	1,500.00	22.00	100.00		2019 Donation AHS 2020 Convention
Newsletter	539.70	644.10	750.00	750.00	
Internet Site	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Zoom Meetings		200.00			Tammy Borden
Winter Symposium 2020	1,000.00	5,682.54	0.00	0.00	
Winter Symposium 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Subtotal	3,800.70	7,609.64	3,011.00	2,800.00	
Net Totals	(975.36)	(2,559.42)	2,614.00	(2,800.00)	
Account Balances					
Checking	14,648.09	12,195.54			
Savings	57,039.51	57,040.95			
Total Assets	71,687.60	69,236.49			

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 Barry Ankney, AHS Membership Secretary, 1104 Oxford Court, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249. 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 board members and Glenn Herold 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. 'Golden Prayer'

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	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3½" 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	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	30	50	3½" x 2"

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
FALL 2021 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. If it says "2020" or earlier, 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.

Next summer's convention "**HOSTAS CHICAGO STYLE**" will be hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society. 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!