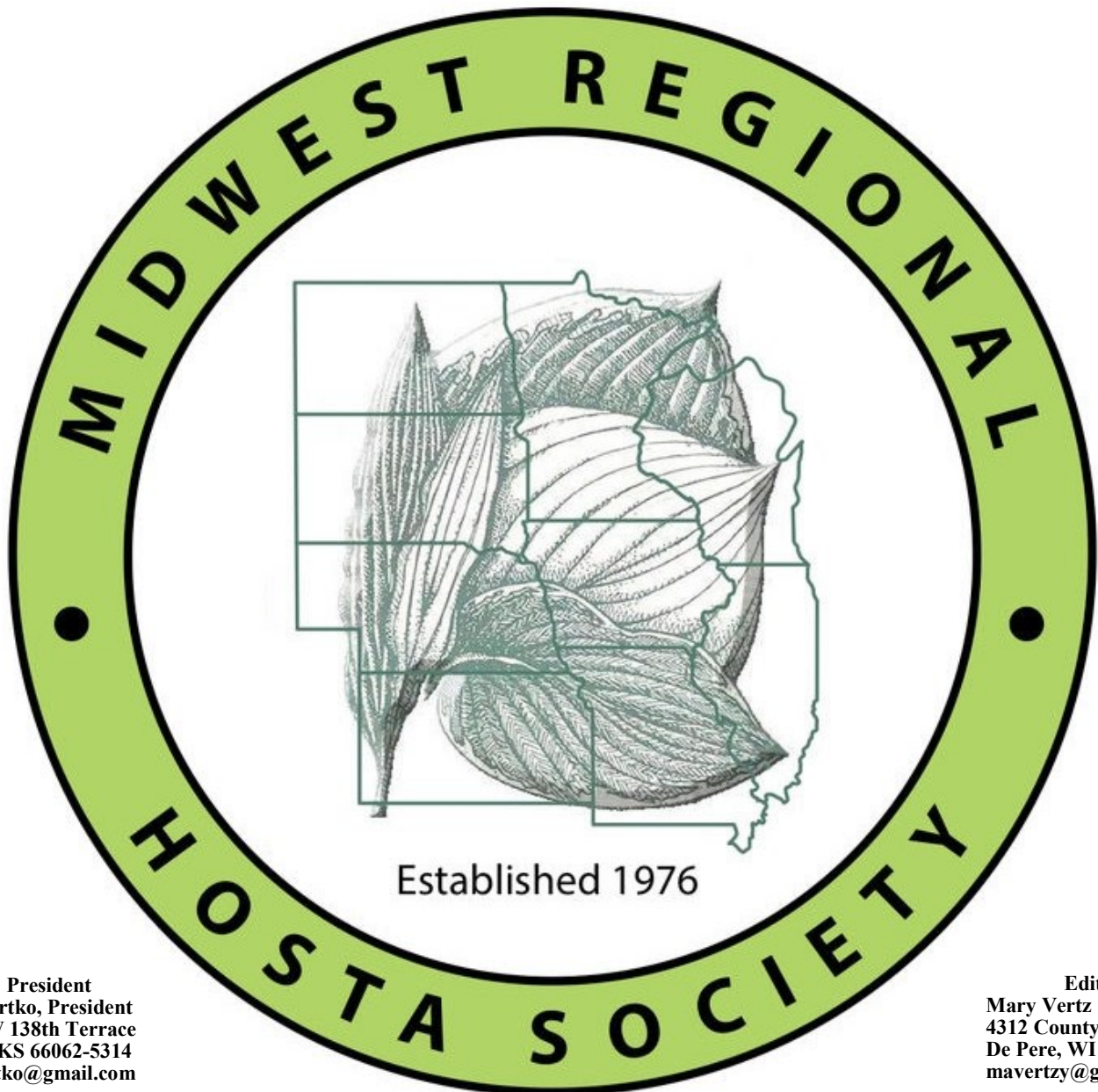


MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 92
2022 Hostas Chicago Style

SPRING 2022



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From the President's Desk

Greetings fellow hostaphiles. Looking back at my inaugural message last October, we were at a hope filled point – a point of return to some sense of normalcy. We took a chance in initiating the planning of the annual Winter Symposium. Little did we know of the pending Omicron surge, and so we regretfully had to cancel the conference in January. Your collective safety was our priority. I really appreciate your understanding. I heard from many of you and the feedback was consistent – “disappointed, but you made the right decision under the circumstances”. The upside is we put together a small group of volunteers who figured out how to plan and manage the logistics of what Jack Barta largely did himself. We now have a blueprint for the future. The Winter Symposium will return in 2023.

The Covid landscape now looks much more encouraging. Just like the feeling of rebirth that emerges each spring, I am anxious to look forward. We have an exciting MRHS summer convention coming this July. Our Chicago hosts have been planning this convention for what must seem like forever. Originally scheduled for 2020, then cancelled and rescheduled for 2021, then cancelled and rescheduled for this year. I can't even imagine keeping a tour garden in “tour garden shape” for 3 years running. A special note of thanks goes to the hosting Northern Illinois Hosta Society for their perseverance.

You will find more info on the July 14-16 “Hostas Chicago Style” MRHS convention in this newsletter. Registration is super easy via the MRHS website. Here's an added bonus for all current MRHS members. By attending the convention, your MRHS will be extended by one year! Bring a friend that is not a current MRHS member and we will grant them a

complimentary one year MRHS membership. I encourage you to register early. In fact, do it now while you're thinking about it.

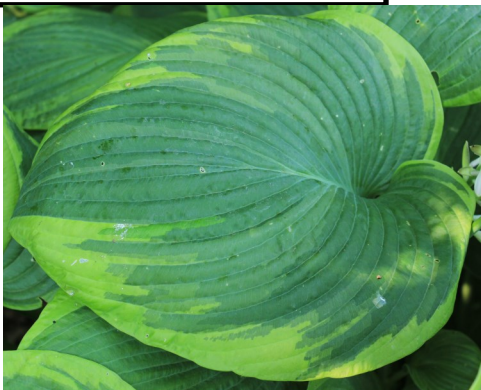
It has been way too long since we were all able to come together face to face for a hosta event. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago in July.

Hosta'ly,
Rob Mortko
MRHS President
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The Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) extends a warm welcome to our new 2022 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

Desiree Clausen
Jane and John Graham
Gene Pulliam

H. 'Backyard Monster'



New MRHS Website password,
effective May 15th:
IslandBreeze2022



H. 'Christmas Tree'

MRHS CONVENTION SET FOR JULY 14 – 16 IN LISLE, IL



If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then Midwest hosta lovers are eagerly looking forward to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention, *Hostas Chicago Style*, July 14 – 16 in the western suburbs of Chicago. MRHS has not had a full convention since 2018 in Peoria. The Northern Illinois Hosta Society has been looking forward to hosting this one since 2020 but has twice been thwarted by Covid, so it has had lots of time to plan this special 2022 event.

NIHS is making an offer not to be refused: Come to Lisle, IL, this July and enjoy unique gardens, stimulating speakers, and lots of opportunities to celebrate hostas while visiting with hosta friends you haven't seen for awhile. NIHS will give you something a bit different at familiar convention events. For example:

Have you ever been to a Chicago-Style Pizza Party in the Park? You are invited to *Hostas Chicago Style's* Thursday evening welcome party and a stroll through beautiful Cantigny Park, where you will find the AHS National Hosta Display Garden that NIHS created!

Would you enjoy seeing fantastic gardens with creative displays of your favorite plant along with companion plants and garden features you may not have seen before? Come for *Hostas Chicago Style's* garden tours on Friday, Saturday, and (optional) Sunday!

How about speakers that focus on prairie plants as hosta companions, or conifers as shade providers, or new and different hostas? Don't miss the Friday and Saturday afternoon seminars at *Hostas Chicago Style!*

As you plan your trip to Lisle, be sure to include plant purchases in your convention budget. You will definitely want to visit the vendors who will tempt you with lots of the latest hostas and companion plants, and you might not be able to resist bidding at the Friday evening auction!

In addition to the attractions already mentioned, you will enjoy visiting the hosta leaf show that always displays spectacular specimens, and the seedling show where you will be able to vote for your favorites. At Saturday evening's banquet, highly-regarded landscape architect and speaker Mark Dwyer will cap the convention with his keynote address, "Colorful Texture in the Shade Garden". Of course, you will have plenty of time to socialize with old and new hosta friends throughout the convention, and at the Hospitality Suite each evening.

Convention headquarters will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lisle where you will get a most comfortable room at a great price—breakfast included! Two outstanding 4-course dinners at the hotel are part of the registration fee. Reserve your room using the link on the registration form.

NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER for this remarkable event by going to the MRHS website, www.midwesthostasociety.org. Click on the 2022 convention icon (like the one at the top here), then the registration form, and follow the instructions. If you prefer, you can use the form below. The website also has photos and many more details about the convention. ***As a bonus, for current members attending the convention, MRHS will extend your membership for one year ! If you become a new member of MRHS while attending the convention, the rest of this year is free!***

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN LISLE ON JULY 14!

Educational Grant

Greetings from Northern Wisconsin, as your Vice President of Midwest Regional Hosta Society, I'm asking the Hosta Societies that have American Hosta Society National Display Gardens within Region 5 to submit the Educational Grant Application, which is enclosed in this newsletter. It's as easy as one-two-three. One: Have an Educational Project, Two: Fill out the Application Three: Submit to: Pat Gwidt Vice President, N1673 Fox Ridge Trail, Keshena, WI 54153 or email application pathen33@yahoo.com All applications will be reviewed at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board Meeting in July.



2022 MRHS Convention Registration Form

July 14-16 - Hosted by Northern Illinois Hosta Society
DoubleTree by Hilton - Lisle /Naperville, IL

www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml

Registrant Information Each registrant must complete a separate form! Pls type your information on this form.

Name as you wish it to appear on badge: _____
(Print your name one letter at a time for best legibility)
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Email Address (required): _____ Cell Phone: _____

Registration Fees: See www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml for detailed descriptions of the categories.

Check Items to Include:		Payment:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration postmarked by June 30 or	\$185	<input type="checkbox"/> Check made out to "NIHS 2022 Convention" or	
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration postmarked July 1 or later	\$210	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit card #: _____	Expiration date: _____ Security Code: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs Chicago-Style pizza Dinner @ Cantigny Park	\$15	\$6 processing fee applies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Processing Fee	\$6	Name on Card: _____	
	My Total _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	

Meals Included: Note: Hotel Guests will receive a Free daily breakfast.

Friday Dinner Choice: Chicken Beef Vegetarian Gluten-Free
Saturday Banquet Choice: Fish Pork Vegetarian Gluten-Free I will not be able to attend the Saturday Banquet.
State any dietary concerns or food allergies. _____

Auction Friday 7:15 pm Please indicate the approximate number of plants/items you will donate _____.

Hosta Show If questions please refer to the show schedule or contact Mary Ann Metz at mmetz1474@earthlink.net.

Please check if you plan to: Judge Clerk Participate in the Show
Please indicate the approximate number of entries you'll submit in each category. Limit of 25 entries per household for Cut leaf Category I.
I-Cut leaf _____ II-Containers _____ III-Troughs _____ IV-Education _____ VII-Specialty _____

Judges Clinic

I will be attending the Clinic. I would like to receive the official handbook and binder at the clinic (\$10 fee payable at the clinic.)
Note: The official handbook is available for download at <https://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Judging.htm>

Hotel Information: Make reservations directly with the hotel for the convention rate of \$106/room plus taxes.

To Book your room call the DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville at [800-552-2599](tel:800-552-2599) and say it's for the Midwest Hosta Convention.
Convention room rate valid until June 30 or until the group block is sold out.

Registration Submission Have questions? Email registrarMRHS@gmail.com

Submit this completed form and your check to Mike Kraus, Treasurer, 6311 Carrie Ct, Crystal Lake, IL 60014-4741. Or, if you are paying by credit card, you can email this completed form to the convention registrar at registrarMRHS@gmail.com. By doing so, you authorize us to charge your credit card for the total amount above. All registrations will be acknowledged to you via the email address you provide. Please notify the Registrar at registrarMRHS@gmail.com if you must cancel. Full refund offered on or before June 30. NO REFUNDS July 1 or later.

Pruning Shrubs for Health and Appearance

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

“In the beginning, shrubs thought they were supposed to grow into their natural shapes. Gardeners didn’t agree, so they invented pruning. Both groups are very stubborn. Shrubs keep right on growing into natural shapes, and gardeners keep right on pruning.” From *Plants Don’t Do What You Tell ‘Em To*, by Jack Aulis.

There is a lot of truth in this humorous anecdote. Each plant has a distinctive shape which is genetically ingrained and which the plant tries to achieve as it grows. Rarely is that ingrained shape the geometric forms that we so often see in front of our houses. Each plant has its own unique characteristics. The tags that come with the plant that we purchased from the garden center usually give an indication of what the plant’s shape will be and how large it is expected to grow, but exceptionally good growing conditions or elapsed time may result in the shrub getting larger than anticipated. If so, size control is a must. With proper pruning we can control the size of a bush and still maintain its natural form.

Besides maintaining its shape and controlling its size, pruning can improve the health of a plant. Young, vigorous growth is much less susceptible to pests than older, less vigorous growth. In fact, the first step in proper pruning is to remove branches that are dead, broken, or infested with insects or disease. Leaves that are much smaller than normal or laden with blotches or spots are signs of infection. Though spring is the best time to prune, this health pruning can be done any time of the year. Avoid pruning diseased limbs while they are wet, for this may result in the spread of the disease. It’s also a good idea to sterilize your pruning shears by wiping with bleach or alcohol between cuts.

There are two general principles that hold true when pruning. The first is that buds lower on the stem, called lateral buds, will remain dormant until the terminal bud is removed. Pruning the tip of a branch will result in a denser and smaller plant. A second premise is that a bud will generally grow in the direction in which it is pointed. If a branch has

buds that are opposing each other, you can pinch off one of the buds to direct growth in the opposite direction

Shrubs are pruned by using one of the three basic types, which are renewal pruning, heading back, and complete rejuvenation. Renewal pruning is the preferred method for multi-stemmed deciduous shrubs. Each year, remove one-quarter to one-third of the largest branches at ground level. New growth will originate from the ground and help to maintain a natural form while controlling size. I normally do this as soon as the snow melts in the spring. For early blooming shrubs such as forsythia, wait until after they bloom so as not to reduce the flower display. Red-twig dogwood, shown in the picture, is an excellent candidate for renewal pruning because the new growth has a brighter red winter color than older wood. If you execute this method as intended, no branch will be more than four years old. If a shrub has been neglected for many years, rejuvenation may be your best option. Cut the entire plant down to a height of six inches and half of those entirely to the ground. You will sacrifice one year of flowers but the plant will quickly recover. Then start renewal pruning it in the second year.

Heading back is the best technique to use on shrubs that have only one or a few canes emerging from the ground. Select the largest and most wayward branches and reach into the plant to a point just above a bud or pair of buds. This forces the buds below your cut to grow and increases the density of the plant. By making your cuts at various depths into the plant the natural form will be maintained and the size controlled.

Pruning in early spring results in a rapid growth response, because the carbohydrates that are stored in the plant over winter go into the buds where growth is desired. Summer pruning can be done to correct excessive growth, but should be minor by comparison to spring pruning. Avoid any pruning after about September 1, for new growth may not adequately harden off before winter's cold temperatures.

With proper pruning, your shrubs will never grow old and overgrown.



Renewal Pruning - Before



Renewal Pruning - After

Pruning Evergreens

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

In order to properly prune evergreens, you must know what type of evergreen it is. Not every evergreen is a “pine”. Evergreens, specifically conifers, have a wide variety of growth habits. Pruning techniques are based on these characteristics. I’ll give you a few basic identifying characteristics, but if unsure, consult an online conifer reference.

True pines generally have relatively long needles that are arranged in groups of 2, 3, or 5. In either May or June, the terminal cluster of buds elongates into what is described as a “candle”. Before the needles of the candle elongate, pinch off part of the candle with your fingers. The more you pinch off, the greater will be the growth reduction. Using your fingers rather than a pruning shears prevents damage to the remaining needles. This technique is best used on dwarf varieties of pines and smaller species such as Mugho Pine (*Pinus mugo*) that are used along the house foundation and shrub border. Larger, tree-sized pines rarely need pruning.

Yews (Genus *Taxus*) respond very well to pruning and are commonly used as hedges and clipped into geometric shapes. Hedge shears are used for this pruning method. However, yews pruned in this way do not look natural and eventually cluster their growth at the edge of the plant because light will not penetrate to the interior. A better technique is to use a hand shears, cutting the vigorous branches back to a node within the plant. Since yews put out two flushes of growth a year, you may have to do this twice a year, in early spring and again in midsummer. Do not prune the late summer flush, for it will induce additional growth that may be susceptible to winter burn. Identify yews by their dark green color and flattened needles.

Junipers are not as popular as they once were, but are still commonly found in older landscapes. The best identifying technique is to shake hands with a branch. If it feels prickly, it is probably a juniper. Prune them with what is called the “feather pruning” technique. Similar to pruning yews, reach into the plant with your hand shears and cut the vigorous branches off above a side branch that is lower on the stem. Do not go into what is known as the “dead zone” of the plant, where there are no lateral

branches, for those branches will eventually die. Junipers grow continuously throughout the summer, so they can be pruned any time before late summer.

Arborvitae (also known as White Cedar; the genus *Thuja*) and False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis*) are pruned similarly to junipers by using the feather pruning technique. They are very responsive to pruning and may be clipped into a formal hedge. Most cultivars need very little pruning, however. Cultivars of these genera come in a wide variety of sizes and shapes, so proper selection before you plant will virtually eliminate the need for pruning.

Other conifers, such as firs, douglas firs, spruces, and hemlocks are taller plants and rarely require pruning. If you need to control a vigorous branch though, either cut back to a side branch or use your shears to clip part of the previous season's growth. Cutting beyond where you see buds on the branch will cause the death of that branch. Shaping the plant when it is young will result in a much better plant as it matures. Watch for multiple leaders. If you see one developing, cut the less vigorous of the two (or more) back to where it emerged. Multiple leaders on taller trees are a major cause of storm damage.



Pine candles with one pinched off to control size

The Tools and Techniques of Pruning Ornamental Trees

by Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Pruning large, mature shade trees is best left to the professionals. You need proper equipment and the ability to climb the tree using a rope and saddle. I used to do this in my teaching days, but it can be dangerous and not for the faint of heart. Those same trees, however, when young, can be trained to develop a strong branching structure and the ability to grow large with little additional care. The best time to do this type of structural pruning is in early spring before the leaves emerge. Pruning when the tree is dormant gives you a clearer view of its structure and minimizes the chance of removing an important branch.

When pruning young shade trees and smaller ornamental trees, the first thing to look for are branches that are broken or crossing over another nearby branch. Remove them at their point of origin, leaving a small shoulder where they fork out from another branch. This area is called the branch collar, a slightly swollen ring at the base of the branch. Do not leave a long stub or make your cut parallel to the larger branch. This will weaken the tree and slow the healing process. Secondly, thin out the tree, retaining the larger, evenly spaced branches as scaffold limbs. Then remove some of the thinner interior twigs. Never remove more than 25 percent of the foliage in any given year. Doing so will result in an excessive amount of twiggy growth from the edges of the cuts during the summer. Some is likely to occur anyway, and can be removed easily with hand pruning shears.

Cleaning out the center of the tree gives it more character and exposes the branching structure. Knowing how the tree grows makes this a fairly easy task. Trying to train a weeping plant into a columnar form is futile. Likewise, trying to get a columnar tree to form a rounded crown is not going to turn out well. Avoid heading cuts on a branch; allow the tree to grow in its natural form and showcase its natural beauty.

For the majority of my pruning tasks, I use just three pruning tools. Small cuts, up to about one-half inch in diameter, are made with a bypass hand pruner, such as those made by Felco or Corona. Good ones aren't cheap, but with proper care they will last a lifetime. Avoid using an anvil-

type of hand pruners, for they tend to crush the stems rather than cut them. For larger branches, up to one and one-half inches in diameter, I use a long-handled loppers. These are also my main tool for renewal pruning of shrubs, which I described in a previous article. The longer the handles, the easier it is to cut the branch.

Larger branches require the use of a saw. My favorite is a folding saw with a blade length of eight to 12 inches. This type of saw can cut on either the pull or push stroke and makes a clean excision. Branches up to six inches in diameter can easily be cut with the larger versions of the folding saw. Limbs larger than those removed by a folding saw are best left to the professional.

Pole pruners can be used on branches that are above your reach, but generally result in a poor cut. I own a pole pruner but rarely use it. Another tool that I own but rarely use is a hedge shears, which is used to formalize the outline of a plant. The only plant in my yard that I use this on is boxwood, and then only every two or three years. As I've mentioned in my pruning articles, I prefer the natural look of plants.

Pruning is both an art and a science. Many people avoid pruning because they don't know where to start, but the worst thing you can do is to not do any pruning. Hopefully, my last three articles have taught you the basics and given you the courage to give it a try. With some practice, you too will become a pruning artist.

Additional articles on plants and gardening can be found on my blog:
<https://TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com>



Loppers, Folding saw, and Hand pruners

MRHS Business News.....

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTRONIC WORK SESSION MINUTES

12/8/2021-12/9/2021

President Rob Mortko contacted the Board regarding concerns about Covid-19 impact on the Winter Symposium scheduled for February 4-5, 2022 in Brookfield, WI. Rob reported that he has been contacted by members who have registered and inquired about possible Covid-19 restrictions or requirements such as mask mandates at the Symposium by either local or state government. A draft response and Board position was presented for discussion. Rob suggested that a cancellation deadline of 1/5/22 with full refund continue to be provided, and that case-by-case considerations could be made as needed later. Board responses in support were David Dettmann (12/8/21@11:39am), Kathy Rustad (12/8/21 @ 4:13pm), Mary Vertz (12/8/21 @ 4:15pm), Patricia Gwidt (12/8/21 @ 8:21pm), Mona Keehn (12/9/21 @ 11:00am), Mary Schwartzbauer (12/9/21 @ 11:12am). No opposition to the policy and response.

Actions Taken: Rob Mortko sent a personal e-mail response to the members who inquired about the Covid-19 situation and possible mask mandates. A similar message was sent to all MRHS members by Barry Ankney posting it on the MRHS website (home page & events page). The posted message was as follows:

“COVID UPDATE” The MRHS Board will follow all federal, state, and local regulations to help keep everyone safe at the Winter Symposium. Should there be a mask mandate in effect for February 5, 2022 we would expect all attendees to honor this mandate. Anyone that has already registered that would not be willing or able to honor such a mandate might want to consider requesting a registration refund in advance of January 5th cutoff date for cancellation refunds. For those registering after January 5th please consider the potential for a mask mandate (however remote) in your thinking. Should the Winter Symposium need to be cancelled due to COVID regulations, all registrations will be fully refunded.

You all stay safe and be well.

Rob

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTRONIC WORK SESSION MINUTES

12/8/2021-12/9/2021

President Rob Mortko initiated discussion of possible need to cancel the Winter Symposium scheduled for February 4-5, 2022, in Brookfield, WI. The current increase in Covid-19 cases in the nation, locally in WI, and the large numbers of vulnerable MRHS members appears to have resulted in hesitancy in registering for the Symposium. To date, about only 30 paid registrations were received by Registrar Dave Collura. Mortko asked board members to reflect on the situation and be ready to render suggestions for action.

On 1/3/22 10:26am, Rob Mortko reported that only 33 net paid registrations have been received, including 3 cancellations due to Covid-19 concerns. He suggested we cancel and discuss if we could change the Symposium to a virtual Zoom event, consider compensation for speakers, and use the same date. Board members responding with agreement to cancel the event as follows: Kathy Rustad 1/3/22 11:25am, David Dettmann 1/3/22 @12:07pm, Mary Vertz 1/3/22@3:17pm, Patricia Gwidt 1/4/22@7:07am, Barry Ankney 1/4/22@7:33am, Mona Keehn 1/4/22@7:38am, and Mary Schwartzbauer 1/4/22@7:50am. No opposition to the cancellation. Board discussion of possible virtual Symposium noted short preparation time and likely some “burn-out” of Zoom meetings, resulting in agreement to cancel the Symposium with plans to reschedule for an in-person event in February 2023.

Action steps: Barry Ankney will post notice on the MRHS and AHS websites, Mary Schwartzbauer will contact speakers (2 had already cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns), Rob Mortko will notify Dave Collura (Symposium registrar), Phil Timm (Symposium hostality chair), and Jim Morrow (Symposium seed sale chair), and Rob will also post on the AHS and MRHS Facebook pages. Registration checks have not been cashed and will be destroyed. Registrants will be reminded to cancel any hotel reservations.

Kathy Rustad sent an e-mail to the MRHS membership list, on 1/4/22 @ 7:59pm, as formatted by Rob Mortko. Board member discussion also noted the need to hold a virtual meeting in lieu of not meeting in person due to the cancelled Symposium. Board consensus was to have a Zoom virtual meeting on Friday, February 4 @ 7pm. Rob Mortko will be given the Zoom meeting contact procedures and information to serve as host.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTRONIC MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2022

President Rob Mortko called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Attending via Zoom video conferencing were Webmaster Barry Ankney, Director-At-Large Mark Rekoske, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Secretary David Dettmann, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer. Absent: AHS Region 5 Representative Kay Dye, Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad. Guest present: Glenn Herold.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2024 MRHS Summer Convention status was reviewed. Glenn Herold and Pat Gwidt are working on the convention to be held July 11-13, 2024 in Fond Du Lac, WI at the Radisson Hotel located at 625 W. Rolling Meadows, just off I-41. No hosting club for this convention. A budget will be developed for board approval, which has the financial responsibility. Glenn noted that some seed money may be needed up front for preliminary expenses. Two plants from Barry Ankney are being developed in the lab and will be grown out as gift plants, and will have names related to a local Native American theme. Rob will send a spreadsheet for budgeting purposes, using his experience with a non-hosted convention at Kansas City. Mary Vertz will assist with name badges, and may be able to help with Tammy Borden who may do the booklet task. Glenn and Pat are working on garden tour arrangements. Glenn then left the meeting at the conclusion of this discussion item, with appreciation for his work on the 2024 convention.

Board Reports:

Secretary Minutes of Electronic Work Sessions (12/4/21-1/4/22 and 12/8-12/9/21) were reviewed. Clarification to explicitly note that the reference in the 12/4/21-1/4/22 Minutes of “Board consensus was to have a Zoom virtual meeting on Friday February 4, 2022 @ 7pm” referred to a Board meeting. Minutes were accepted as clarified.

Membership Report submitted by Kathy Rustad as reviewed. Discussion on trends in membership numbers. Currently 204 are paid thru 2022 or beyond, 58 members not yet renewed from 2021, five new members since last report, and one renewed membership since last report. Renewal emails were sent to 108 on 9/20/21 and

92 USPS renewal letters were sent in December 2021. Active membership history shows relatively consistent trends with 256 active members on 12/31/21.

Discussion of possibly offering complimentary membership if attending the summer convention. This has been done before and does not seem to affect convention attendance. By attending the convention, if somebody joins as a new member, they would get membership for the rest of the current year, and if a current member, they would get an “add-on” year. Board approved 7-0. Treasurer’s Report from Mona Keehn noted \$57,046.65 in savings and \$13,488.47 in checking accounts.

2022 Winter Symposium Recap: The Symposium was cancelled due to continuing concerns about covid-19 impact on attendance. The host hotel site graciously allowed cancellation of the contract without requiring an extension for next year nor a deposit impact. MRSH was given a \$100 memorial for Jack Barta from the Shades of Green Hosta Society. Suggestion for a “Jack Barta Memorial Scholarship” for attendance at the Symposium was supported, with a process of a random draw of attendees to receive a registration refund. This process can always be decided each year for future Symposia. Board approved 7-0. Rob sent a thank you for the memorial gift.

Summer Convention Board Meeting is tentatively planned for Thursday July 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm. It was noted that this conflicts somewhat with the “Pizza in the Park” event held from 4:30-8 pm.

Meeting of hosta society Presidents at the Summer Convention was discussed. It was noted that the intent of promoting communication and networking while also providing MRHS support has merit, but has not had much active involvement at past Conventions. Board decided to discontinue this event at this time.

Discussion of Officer terms and status, and possible need for a Nominating Committee. Barry was asked to include a term year designation for the term-limited Officer positions on the MRHS website (under the Officer tab); this involves the President, Vice President, Region 5 Representative, and Secretary. It was noted that the by-laws aren’t completely clear regarding how non-term positions continue, and if they are open in time versus two-year terms, or renewed by holder’s declaration or replaced by election or appointment. It was determined that non-term Officers are replaced by election only

when a vacancy occurs. Rob will contact the current non-term Officer positions for their interest in continuing in their roles, and then if a vacancy is found, a nominating committee will be formed before the summer convention.

New Business:

D'etta Montgomery Service Award has been selected for 2020 and the presentation was postponed until we had an in-person Convention. Discussion of the presentation process determined that identifying a person who knows the awardee well would be most appropriate, and the likely presenter was identified.

Spring Zoom video event to be offered to MRHS members to possibly replace the cancelled Winter Symposium was discussed. Rob will contact Mark Zillis for a possible event in April, with topic and specific date to be determined. We should be willing to compensate the speaker. Glenn Herold provided a fall 2021 Zoom Educational event which had about 40 attendees. He was not compensated then; Rob proposed that \$200 be provided for the presenter. Board approved 7-0. Rob will arrange a retroactive compensation of \$200 for Glenn Herold's presentation on September 16, 2021.

Mary Vertz requested that Board members provide articles and reports as needed for the next newsletter by April 1, 2022.

Brief discussion regarding awareness of a hosta named after Jack Barta.

Status of the future of the Land of Giants hosta business and collection following the tragic death of Jeff Miller was discussed. It was noted and hoped that some family will continue the operation and collection.

The 2022 MRHS Summer Convention and Tour event registration will soon be available, and will be conducted on-line.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTRONIC WORK SESSION MINUTES

April 12-15, 2022

Treasurer Mona Keehn presented the 2023 Budget proposal for review. The Board meeting held via Zoom on February 4, 2022 included a Treasurer's summary of balances but did not discuss a Budget proposal for 2023. President Rob Mortko initiated an e-mail review and discussion of the Budget proposed by Keehn. Focus of discussion was how to provide a balanced budget to the membership. Suggestions to achieve a balanced budget and clarify expenses and income projections were to:

- 1. Increase Winter Symposium attendance projections.**
- 2. Slightly increase Winter Symposium registration fee from \$59 to \$69.**
- 3. Move Zoom meeting expense (for Zoom service annual cost & speaker compensation) of \$600 to miscellaneous contingency item, as Zoom meetings were substitutions for in-person meetings with members and the Board due to Covid-19 issues, and may not (hopefully) be needed again.**
- 4. Add a footnote on membership income projection regarding complimentary one-year membership credit for all who attend the 2022 Convention.**
- 5. Consider that past practice of complimentary rooms from hotel for specified guaranteed hotel room night reservations at Winter Symposium will need to be discussed with the hotel.**
- 6. Budget stable costs for the Winter Symposium using the 2022 planned Symposium, but note that costs for Winter Symposium hotel food, beverage, and other services are unknown for 2023, and may need budget adjustment if changed when these costs are quoted in later 2022.**

Following the review and discussion of the above suggestions, President Mortko presented a revised budget on 4/14. Treasurer Mona Keehn motioned to approve the revised budget on 4/14, 11:37am, seconded by Mortko on 4/14, 11:37am, and a vote was called. Approval by Vice President Pat Gwidt on 4/14, 12:10pm, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad on 4/14, 12:38pm, Webmaster Barry Ankney on 4/14, 12:43pm, Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske on 4/14, 1:30pm, Treasurer Mona Keehn on 4/14, 1:30pm, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer on 4/14, 2:38pm, President Rob Mortko on 4/14, 2:49pm, Secretary David Dettmann on 4/14, 2:57pm,

Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz on 4/14, 4:24pm, and AHS Region 5 Representative Kay Dye on 4/15, 6:18am. No votes opposed. Motion carried, and the revised Budget will be presented to the Membership at the 2022 Convention for discussion and approval. E-mail meeting concluded with the vote confirmations and summary on April 15, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

2022 Hosta of the Year *H.* 'Island Breeze'



AHGA

Check out the Hosta Growers website for details on the 2022 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



Previous Hosta of the Year

2021	<i>H.</i> 'Rainbow's End'	2008	<i>H.</i> 'Blue Mouse Ears'
2020	<i>H.</i> 'Dancing Queen'	2007	<i>H.</i> 'Paradigm'
2019	<i>H.</i> 'Lakeside Paisley Print'	2006	<i>H.</i> 'Stained Glass'
2018	<i>H.</i> 'World Cup'	2005	<i>H.</i> 'Striptease'
2017	<i>H.</i> 'Brother Stefan'	2004	<i>H.</i> 'Sum and Substance'
2016	<i>H.</i> 'Curly Fries'	2003	<i>H.</i> 'Regal Splendor'
2015	<i>H.</i> 'Victory'	2002	<i>H.</i> 'Guacamole'
2014	<i>H.</i> 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'	2001	<i>H.</i> 'June'
2013	<i>H.</i> 'Rainforest Sunrise'	2000	<i>H.</i> 'Sagae'
2012	<i>H.</i> 'Liberty'	1999	<i>H.</i> 'Paul's Glory'
2011	<i>H.</i> 'Praying Hands'	1998	<i>H.</i> 'Fragrant Bouquet'
2010	<i>H.</i> 'First Frost'	1997	<i>H.</i> 'Patriot'
2009	<i>H.</i> 'Earth Angel'	1996	<i>H.</i> 'So Sweet'

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget for 2022

(Per By-Laws: Fiscal Year is January 1st to December 31st)

Last Updated: 04/14/2022			
Category	2021 Actuals (2022 Budget Items)	2022 Budget (approved June 2021)	2023 Budget (to be approved July 2022)
Income:			
Membership Dues	1,059.92	100.00	1,000.00
Convention	0.00	5,000.00	2,500.00
Income-Interest	5.70	25.00	10.00
Winter Symposium	0.00	500.00	6,000.00
Seed Auction	0.00	0.00	500.00
Subtotal	1,065.62	5,625.00	10,010.00
Expense:			
Award-Montgomery	0.00	100.00	100.00
2020 Grants	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Liability Insurance	450.00	461.00	450.00
Membership Expense	58.00	200.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	142.42	100.00	700.00
Newsletter	564.67	750.00	750.00
Internet Site	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zoom Meetings	200.00		0.00
Winter Symposium	0.00	0.00	6,500.00
Subtotal	2,015.09	2,811.00	9,900.00
Net Totals	(949.47)	2,814.00	110.00

Account Balances:	Current
Checking	13,278.47
Savings	57,046.66
Total Assets	70,325.13

HOSTAS



Make plans to attend
“Hostas Chicago Style”
July 14-16, 2022.

Check the Midwest Hosta Society website for exciting details
about “Hostas Chicago Style” 2022! [http://
midwesthostasociety.org/](http://midwesthostasociety.org/)

The logo for the 2022 Hosta Vision National Convention. It features the number "20" in a large, outlined font, with a green hosta leaf to its right. Below "20" is a green silhouette of the state of Minnesota, followed by the number "22" in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom, the words "HOSTA VISION" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "HOSTA" on the top line and "VISION" on the bottom line.	<p>American Hosta Society National Convention June 8 - 11, 2022 Minneapolis Marriott NW www.HostaVision2022.com</p>
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REGISTER NOW!

***H.* 'California Gold Rush'**



***H.* 'Made You Look'**

***H.* 'His Honor'**



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

2023 Ames, IA

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



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 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—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 2025, 2026, 2027.

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

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
SPRING 2022 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 “2021”, 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 200 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.

Join us 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.