

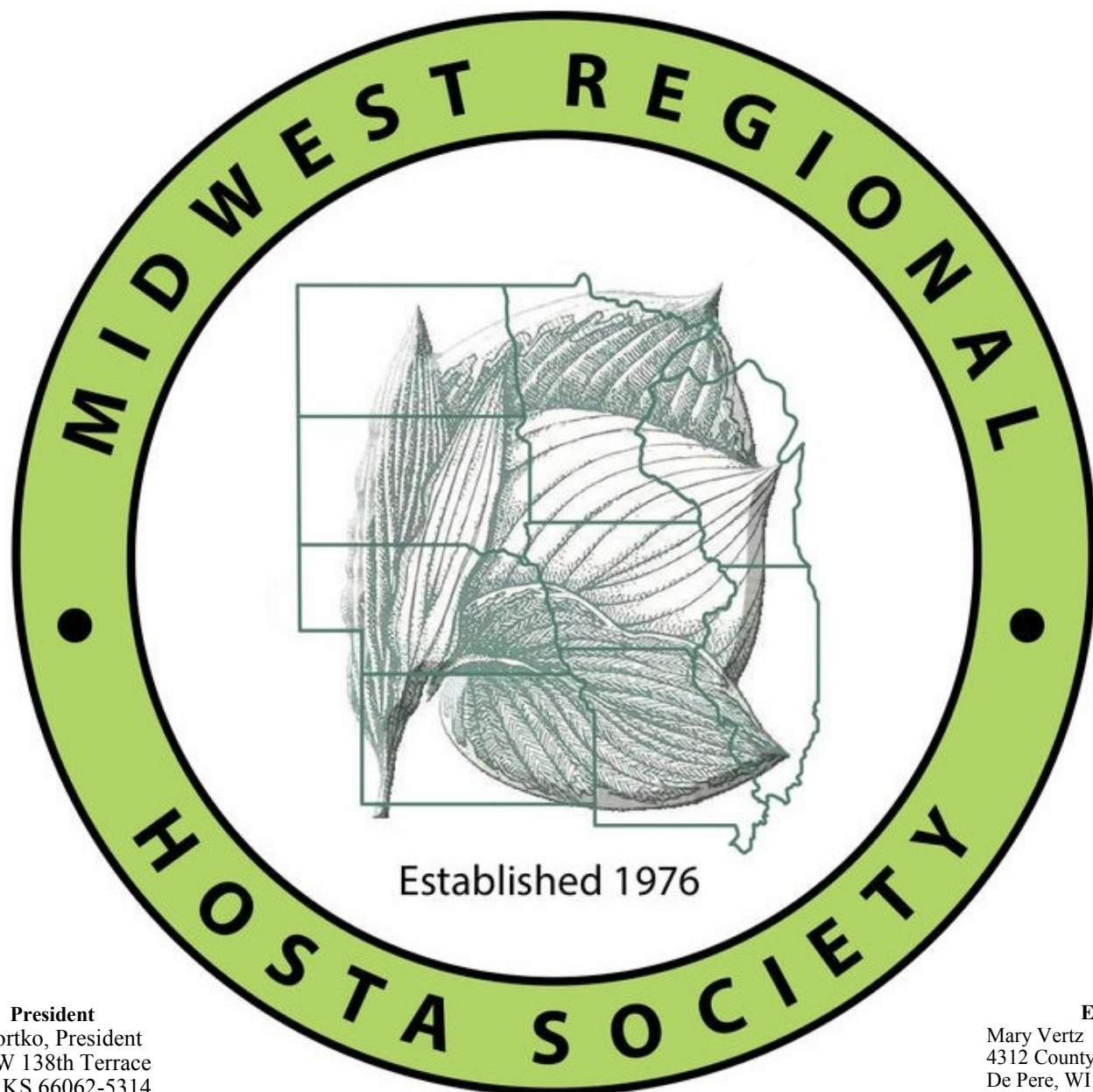
MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 93

FALL 2022

WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM
LISLE, ILLINOIS "HOSTAS CHICAGO STYLE"



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updates and dues to
Mona Keehn**

MRHS President's Message

Fall, 2022

Greetings fellow hostaphiles. We are back, back in person! It was truly great seeing everyone in person again at the summer convention in Chicago. Zoom had its place in getting us through the pandemic, but there is just no substitute for face to face, in person contact.

A big shoutout to our Chicago convention hosts Barbara King and Mike Kraus as well as their entire Northern Illinois Hosta Society convention team. They patiently worked through the pandemic as the planned event was cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. Perseverance led to success. Now we look forward to next summer's convention in Rochester, Minnesota.

In my remarks at annual members' meeting at the convention, I mentioned that what the society really needs is not so much your annual membership dues, but your active participation in society events. Our trusty treasurer Mona Keehn reported that the MRHS has a strong financial position. In fact, all who attended the summer convention were given a complimentary one-year extension on MRHS membership or given a complimentary new membership for 2022. Our challenge as a vibrant and thriving society is to support our two annual events – the summer convention and the winter symposium. The lifeline of our society remains with these two in-person events that stimulate new friendships and sustain longtime friendships. Coming out of the pandemic, the old saying never rings more true. “What first brought us together was a plant, but what keeps us coming back is the people.”

And that lead me to the upcoming 2023 Winter Symposium. Planning is already well underway. The hotel contract has been signed. The speaker lineup is set. There is an article later in this newsletter regarding the specifics along with a registration form. My request of each of you is to please join us in Milwaukee. We have moved the event to later in February, safely after the Super Bowl, and hopefully bettering our odds of “good” winter weather. Consider bringing a friend with you. We need at least 80 to attend this event to cover all the fixed hotel costs, speaker honorariums and AV costs. The Winter Symposium is an event truly unique to the MRHS. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee on February 25th.

Hosta’ly,

Rob Mortko
MRHS President
robmortko@gmail.com
16370 W. 138th Terr
Olathe, KS 66062

To: Region 5 Hosta Societies’ Presidents

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

MRHS 2022 DeEtta Montgomery Award Presented by Mary Schwartzbauer

The MRHS finally was able to hold its annual convention this past July after a long Covid break. It was a fun and memorable time for all who were able to come. Attendees get to try to figure out who the recipient of the DeEtta Montgomery Award is by the presentation, and we thought perhaps instead of just telling you who it was, you might enjoy trying to figure it out just like the attendees did! Below is the presentation speech I was honored to give. Can you figure out who the recipient was before you get to the last line?

Good things come to those who wait. We've been waiting a long time to get together again and just as long to honor and acknowledge one of our own for the contributions he or she has made and continues to make to our society and the genus hosta. The DeEtta Montgomery award is the highest award given by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. It is our own award, unique to us, just as our own DeEtta was unique to us. I can almost hear her unforgettable laughter echoing through these halls right now and it brings a smile to my face. To be honest, it didn't always-when we'd be listening to something important or someone and this shriek and cackle would rise above it all from somewhere in the room, but her joy and laughter, her smiling face and dedication embodied what this society is all about.

So as hard as it was, this last couple of years, to not get together in person, to try to do as much as we could, as 'normally' as we could, we felt this award was too important to just present it to the recipient over zoom. So, we waited until we could come together again. I don't know if we've exactly figured out if this recipient is for 2020, 2021 and/or 2022, but it seems fitting anyway you look at it. I looked back in the 'rules' and it said this award may or may not be given out each year at the discretion of the board, so everything is good.

This person has been active in this regional society as well as the na-

tional society since joining early in the 2000's. In fact, since there was no local society nearby, this person created and continues to be very active in the very successful one she created. People often ask if there is a society near them to join. They may be disappointed to hear the nearest one is two hours away. I'm not sure what happens then. Do they drive two hours to attend meetings, do they forget the whole thing? Very few would say, "Hmm, we need one here and I'll get it started" - and then do! Fewer yet, show those members of this new society that there is even more - a regional group and a national group that they can also become a part of and are welcome and encouraged to join as well. And you know what? She belongs to both and will be going to both of their respective conventions, and you can too, and she'll help you, and since she's going, you won't be alone, and you'll already have at least one friend there. And that is how we grow and how we've become the friendship plant.

To be an active member as this person is, is great, but we also need leadership. A calm and reasonable voice to help carry this organization forward. This person is just that, having held multiple offices again in the local, regional, and national level. And since you're going to the conventions, why not bring a plant or two for the auction to help with the financial sustenance of the organization? And why not have them be hostas that you have hybridized or registered? And of course, you know they're good ones because you are an active hosta judge and know what constitutes a desired plant! But why not enter some hostas in the show as well to assist in making the show a successful and an enjoyed activity for the membership and public as well?! Maybe turning on some members of the public to our beloved plant as well?!

Yes, this person's contributions are many, and varied - from leadership roles; to donations of plants; donations of time and energy; to judging; assisting newer and older members alike; and to participating in all areas of the Hosta experience. This will not be this person's first award, having also been the recipient of the Alex J Summer AHS national award - the highest award given in that organization as well. Hmm.

There is a trend, and I am happy and honored to present the DeEtta Montgomery Award, **THIS** organizations highest award, to our friend, Cindy Tomashek.

Congratulations again, Cindy! Thank you for the many contributions you have made and continue to make to our society!



Cindy receiving the DeEtta Montgomery award from Rob Mortko, MRHS president with Mary Schwartzbauer on the left.

Picture by Joe Parisi, who with his wife Chris is the Shades of Green Hosta Society's Newsletter editors.

Following is a reprint from Shades of Green Hosta Society's Oct—Nov—Dec 2022 *The Hosta Leaf*. Thanks to Joe Parisi for pulling all the information together.

Who is DeEtta Montgomery? The Woman Behind the Award

It began with a simple question: Who is DeEtta Montgomery, the woman behind the prestigious Midwest Regional Hosta Society Award that bears her name?

With the passage of time, acquaintances are lost and memories fade. Nonetheless, I was fortunate to contact several of DeEtta's friends who knew her well, and to talk to one of her sons, Dean Montgomery. I am very grateful to Dean and Sally Stewart for sharing the wonderful photos of his DeEtta.



DeEtta Montgomery
Courtesy of Dean Montgomery

What emerges is a portrait of a larger-than-life person. A loving mother and wife, a successful Businesswoman and a beloved friend. Her magnetic personality, always infused with a sense of mirth, made her a favorite among friends.

DeEtta was born May 23, 1937, in Iowa City, Iowa, to Eugene and Dorothea (Wiese) Piatt. She married Wayne Montgomery on November 6, 1953, in Morrison, IL.

She was the mother of two sons and three daughters, and grandmother to 11. She served as vice president of

Wayne Montgomery Carpet and Furniture in Davenport, IA.

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DeEtta treasured her family and friends, and enjoyed shopping and entertaining. Having a big yard allowed her to explore gardening, which began as a hobby, but quickly grew into her “passion in life.” She talked about it to everyone, and loved teaching people about hostas and other plants and trees.

DeEtta was very involved in community projects, planning, fundraisers, and charity events. She was a member of Master Gardeners, Mississippi Valley Hosta Society, Midwest Regional Hosta Society, American Hosta Society, Outing Club, and American Conifer Society, and served as a board member of Friends of VanderVeer Botanical Park. She donated her time and energy, as well as furniture and accessories, to the many community events she was passionate about.

DeEtta served as Vice-President of the MRHS along Tom Micheletti as President from 2001-2005. She was elected to follow Tom as President, but tragically her life was cut short by cancer and she died on November 26, 2005, before she could assume her new position. In recognition of her numerous contributions to the MRHS, the DeEtta Montgomery Award was established in her honor in 2007.

As Tom Micheletti descried: “I was President of the MRHS at the time the award was established. I wanted to create an award for the MRHS to honor members that have given their service to the MRHS, similar to the AHS Alex J. Summer Award. Since DeEtta was such a vibrant and enthusiastic supporter of the MRHS, I proposed to the board that the award be named in her honor. They agreed and that is how it was established.

She was the first recipient of the award, which was given in 2007 at the convention that was hosted by her local society, the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society in the Quad Cities area. Her brother, Dean Piatt, was in attendance at that convention and accepted the award in her honor.”

From all accounts, DeEtta was well-liked and lived every moment to the fullest. In the words of some of her friends:

“DeEtta had a laugh that would light up a room. She was a big supporter at the auction and a Master Judge. She was always fun and entertaining. She had a big heart and loved her hosta friends.”

“I had been a member of the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society about 2 weeks when we were having our spring plant sale. I didn’t really know anyone. I remember a SUV pulling up in front and getting hung up on a drain grid.¹ You could hear it grinding against the undercarriage. The car stopped and DeEtta got out of the car, laughing. She unloaded donation plants, got back in the car and continued over the drain until she could drive away. That was my first introduction to her.”

“At my first convention in St. Louis in 2003, DeEtta introduced me to everybody she knew, which was just about everybody, including many who have won the Montgomery Award.”

“Carolyn Hamilton always shares the story of DeEtta buying a plant at one of the auctions, probably AHS. She was attempting to bare root it while holding it in the toilet (flush method of rinsing the soil). She lost her grip on the plant and ended up flushing it! I heard she had paid \$300 for the plant. That may have been exaggerated over the years.”

“She was always fun and entertaining, had a big heart and loved her hosta friends.”

Sally Stewart

“She was vivacious and very likable...a popular person.”

Barb Schroeder

“DeEtta was hard to miss in the gardens, laughing and chatting with people around her, usually dressed in bright colors. Sadly, she was gone before I was brave enough to approach her and get to know her.”

Cindy Tomashek

Since its inception, the Award had been given to many outstanding and well-recognized leaders in the hosta world. These include:

- 2007 - DeEtta Montgomery (posthumously)
- 2008 - Roger Koopmans
- 2009 - Floyd Rogers
- 2010 - Audra and Fred Wilson
- 2011 - Irwin Johnson
- 2012 - Tom Micheletti
- 2013 - Carolyn Hamilton
- 2014 - Bob Olson
- 2015 - Barbara Schroeder
- 2016 - Lou Horton
- 2017 - Mark Rekoske
- 2018 - Jack Barta
- 2022 - Cindy Tomashek

DeEtta was a remarkable woman who embodied the very essence of the friendship plant. Fond memories of her contributions and rich life will forever be a part of the DeEtta Montgomery Award.

Contributed by Joe Parisi

¹In a subsequent communication, Sally Stewart relayed that, in DeEtta’s defense, “...the grid was covered with grass.”



(Clockwise from left) DeEtta Montgomery; Teri Simmering, DeEtta, & Ron Simmering with ribbons won at an AHS Convention; DeEtta, Margaret Eyre & Carolyn Hamilton at the 2003 AHS Convention; Teri Simmering & DeEtta teaching a class in the Quad Cities.

Photos courtesy of Sally Stewart

Hakone Grass Glows in Fall

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Looking for a grass that tolerates shade, has great autumn foliage color, and is not invasive? Look no further than *Hakonechloa macra*, the Japanese Forest Grass or Hakone Grass. The hardest part about using this grass in your landscape may be the pronunciation of the name. For those of you who are sticklers about using botanical names, it's ho-kon-ee-KLO-a, named for the Hakone hot springs region near Mount Hakone in Honshu, Japan. There it is found on both moist mountainous areas, including wet rocky cliffs, and on moist woodland areas. *Hakonechloa* is a monotypic genus, meaning that it has only one species, that being *Hakonechloa macra*.

Hakonechloa is a clump forming, slow spreading grass with arching blades resulting in a waterfall appearance. The green-leaved species grows to a height of 18 to 24 inches, but many of the cultivars mature at a lower height. All may take on colors of orange, purple, or red when temperatures drop in fall. Flowers are a light purple color when they first emerge in July and August, but then fade to tan, persisting into winter. No serious pest problems hinder its growth, but some winter protection may be warranted until it is well established. Not cutting the foliage back until spring and covering the plant in the winter with evergreen boughs help Hakone grass survive Southeast Wisconsin's Zone 5 winters.

Use *Hakonechloa* to brighten shady areas and to provide textural contrast with large leaved plants such as hostas. Massing them along a border results in a stunning display that will stop you in your tracks. You can also easily add more plants to your garden by dividing a mature clump. Japanese Forest Grass prefers evenly moist, but well drained soils in part shade. Too much shade for yellow leaved and variegated cultivars results in mostly green foliage. Too much sun may scorch the yellow or white striping, especially when the temperature is consistently above 80 degrees.

Plants of *Hakonechloa* may be all green, all yellow, or variegated in stripes of white, green, or yellow. The cultivar 'All Gold,' as the name implies, has yellow or lime green foliage, depending on the amount of sun that it is being grown in. The more sun, the yellower it will be. 'Beni-Kaze' is all green, changing to a reddish-purple color in autumn. 'Nicolas' is similar to 'Beni-Kaze' but smaller, maturing at only 6 to 9 inches tall. Use it in the front of a border or as a ground cover. 'Aureola,' the most popular cultivar, is gold striped and only 10 to 14 inches tall. The Perennial Plant Society selected this cultivar as its plant of the year in 2009. 'Albo-striata' and 'Sunny Delight' have the reverse variegation of 'Aureola.' Both have more green than yellow striping, resulting in more vigorous growth. In my garden both are about 18 to 20 inches.

Whether you garden in sun or shade, grasses should be part of your plant palette. Though more grasses prefer sun than shade, Japanese Forest Grass will make you glad that you garden in the shadows. Even during a Wisconsin winter, it provides textural and color interest. Look for Japanese Forest Grass cultivars in the catalogs that will soon arrive in your mailbox and at garden centers next spring.



Hakonechloa macrocarpa 'Albo-striata' showing its golden winter color

Hakonechloa macrocarpa pictures by Glenn Herold



Hakonechloa macrocarpa 'Beni Kaze' foliage



Hakonechloa macro 'Albo-striata'



Hakonechloa macro 'All Gold'



Hakonechloa macro 'Aureola'



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
2023 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 25, 2023
Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

The MRHS Board remains proudly committed to promoting hosta education. Join us for this uniquely MRHS event featuring three in-person speakers, and three speakers from across the country joining us via Zoom.

Registration Fee (includes Sat. lunch): \$69 (MRHS members); \$79 (non-MRHS members)

Hotel Rate: \$109 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:

→ **Josh Spece – New Hostas for 2023...and Beyond**

The anticipation of new hostas is a thrill for all hostaholics! We will take a look at what is new and exciting for 2023, plus see a sneak peek at a few plants coming in the near future.

→ **Glenn Herold – I'm Glad You Asked**

We have had many visitors to our garden and we seem to get asked about certain plants over and over. So that you don't have to ask next time you come to our garden, I will talk about those plants, as well as some of those that should have been asked about. Trees, shrubs, conifers, perennials, and even some hostas are included.

→ **Cindy Tomashek – Jumping Worms: Know the Enemy!**

Identifying jumping worms, understanding their life cycle and reproduction, suggestions on how to avoid introducing them, coping if you have them...less science, more observation.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
2023 WINTER HOSTA SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM
Saturday, February 25, 2023 - Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

Hotel Rate: \$109 per night + tax (includes breakfast for registered hotel guests)

Deadline for hotel reservation is February 3, 2023

To make a reservation online use this link:

[Book your group rate for Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2023](#)

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

The group code is "Winter Hosta Symposium Meeting Feb 2023" or mini-hotel code "JLU".
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. Lunch is included with your registration.

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 _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

If a non-MRHS member,
your \$10 surcharge will
be applied to a
1-year membership in
the MRHS.

FAMILY MEMBER(S) ATTENDING

Registrations postmarked after February 3, 2023 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.
Cancellations before February 3, 2023 will be sent a full refund. (Except for medical emergencies or death in family)

Number of members _____ X \$69 = _____

Number of non-members _____ X \$79 = _____

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

Following is a reprint from Shades of Green Hosta Society's Oct—Nov—Dec 2022 *The Hosta Leaf*.

In Memoriam: Dr. Robert (Bob) Olson

We are saddened to report the death of Dr Robert (Bob) Olson on September 15. Bob was an extraordinary man who led an extraordinary life. He attended the University of Minnesota Medical School and had a distinguished career as a gastroenterologist in the Twin Cities.

A gentleman and giant in the hosta world, Bob served as Editor of the AHS *The Hosta Journal* for an astounding 22 years. He held numerous leadership roles in the AHS and MRHS, including serving three terms as AHS President (1992-1998). His contributions were recognized with several prestigious awards: the 2004 AHS Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, the 2014 MRHS DeEtta Montgomery Award, the American Hosta Society Service Pin, and the 2019 AHS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bob loved sharing his knowledge and love of hostas and will be remembered for his humility and sense of humor, his friendly smile and the twinkle in his eyes--a wonderful friend who will be missed greatly..



Bob Olson receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from President Mary Schwartzbauer at the 2019 AHS National Convention.

Photo by Joe Parisi

Remembrances from Cindy Tomashek:

“I first crossed paths with Bob Olson in 2000, not realizing he was such an influential person in both the American Hosta Society and the Midwest Hosta Society. Later, I would have the great privilege to get to know Bob when serving on the AHS Board. Bob was often seated next to me--whispering the story behind whatever topic was before the Board. He was always informative, diplomatic and wryly humorous.”

“We were fortunate to have Bob speak to our group (notice the SOGHS logo wear in the picture!)...and fortunate to visit his lovely gardens. Always generous with his time and generous in sharing hostas, a couple of years ago, he gave Mona and me each a piece of a hosta from his garden, *H. ‘Brazen Hussy’*...it’s become a very nice plant and makes me think of Bob, smiling.”

For your enjoyment “Hostas Chicago Style” in picture review. All photos by Mary Vertz

Garden of Lou & Nickie Horton



H. 'Eskimo Pie'



H. 'Victory'

Garden of Billie & Sam Childress



Garden of Mark & Stevie Meginness

To plant a garden is
to believe in tomorrow.
- Audrey Hepburn



Garden of Jim & Barbara King



Garden of Joe & Monica Jansen



Garden of Cappy & Dennis Johnston



Garden of Sam & Andi Solomon



Garden of Janice Becker



Garden of Carl & Penny Fulkerson



Garden of Mark & Marsha Rekoske



Hosta Show



Rod Kuenster Seedling Competition



Other Happenings...



As we say 'Goodbye' to another great convention, follow that garden path to.....



Garden of Mark & Stevie Meginness

....a mid-winter 'hosta fix' in late February at the Winter Symposium in Milwaukee, WI.

Then celebrate summer in style with fellow host-a-holics in mid July at '*Hosta dreamin*' in Rochester, MN.

Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATES!

MRHS CONVENTION IN ROCHESTER,
MN

JULY 13 – 15, 2023



Hosta dreamin'
2023 MRHS Convention

Don't Miss
the Convention of your dreams!

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention

July 13-15 • Rochester, MN

Best Western Rochester Hotel

Information: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>
Preview video: <https://tinyurl.com/hostadreamin>

Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Coming to Rochester, July 13-15, 2023

Garden enthusiasts from around the country are expected to attend the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, July 13-15, 2023, at the Best Western Rochester Hotel gather in Rochester, Minnesota. The Convention is hosted and organized by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota.

The theme of the Convention, '*Hosta dreamin'*', reflects the ever-expanding love of and interest in hostas, which have become integral components of regional gardens due to their wide variety in color and size and ability to thrive in Minnesota's Zone 4 climate.

Each Convention attendee will receive an exclusive Convention Hosta that has never before been offered to the public. Additionally, the first 75 Convention registrants before May 1, 2023 will receive a second gift plant, *Hosta* 'Candy Kisses'.

Convention highlights include a kick-off BBQ at the breathtaking gardens of Camp Creek Farm in Preston, MN, tours of five spectacular gardens featuring vast collections of hostas in diverse landscape designs, educational sessions presented by world-class experts, an accredited Hosta Show, a Rod Kuenster Seedling Show, a live auction, a raffle, vendors offering hostas of all varieties, garden art and more, hospitality, and a few surprises. The Hosta and Seedling Shows and the vending area will be open to the public at specified times, allowing visitors to experience first-hand the captivating colors, shapes and sizes that hostas afford.

Registration and further information at:

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

Convention Preview Video at:

<https://tinyurl.com/hostadreamin>



Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

Midwest Hosta Society

2023 Rochester, MN hosted by Shades of Green Hosta Society of

Southeast Minnesota July 13-15

2024 Fond du Lac, WI, July 11-13

American Hosta Society

2023 Ames, IA, June 7-10

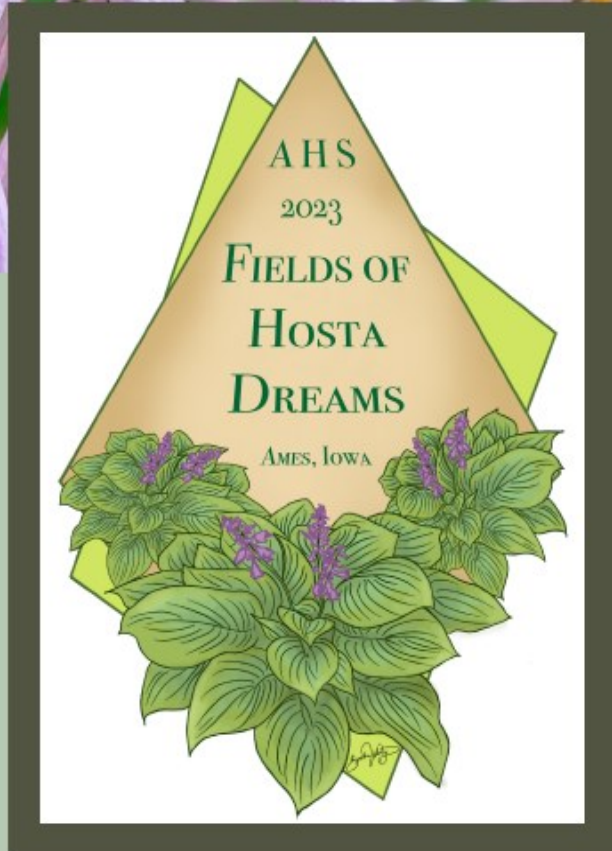
2024 Marlborough, MA, June 19-22

June 7-10, 2023



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

- ⊗ Bases-loaded garden tours by bus. And car.
- ⊗ Out-of-the-park educational sessions.
- ⊗ Homerun AHS sanctioned Hosta Show.
- ⊗ Batter-up Hosta auction
- ⊗ Better-than-ballpark hospitality with food, drinks, and entertainment.
- ⊗ Vendors, and we don't mean peanuts!



Get Registered!

www.hostaconvention.org

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022, Lisle, IL

ATTENDING: President Rob Mortko, Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Secretary David Dettmann, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Member-at-Large Mark Rekoske, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Region V Representative Kay Dye, Webmaster Barry Ankney.

President Mortko called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT provided by Kathy Rustad. Current membership is 209. Three new and two returning members since last report. Of the 123 registered for the summer 2022 convention, 71 are members who will get a one-year membership extension of their membership terms. New members signing up during the convention will receive two years of membership for \$10 including this year. Mortko will promote this option at the Friday auction. All board members supported the new member program.

TREASURER'S REPORT provided by Mona Keehn. Discussion of MRHS support for the Northern IL society for the 2022 convention identified that we have established that auction results are shared 50-50 to help backstop potential financial losses for the local society at conventions. MRHS sponsored a hospitality night at the 2022 AHS convention in MN; this was paid prior to that convention. The group (Russ O'Harra Hosta Society/Ames coalition) organizing the 2023 AHS convention to be held in Ames, IA has requested \$1500 for a hospitality night which will include beer and wine, as the hotel will not allow BYOB arrangements. Vertz moved to approve the request, seconded by Ankney; motion approved by all with Dettmann (ROHS treasurer) abstaining.

EDUCATIONAL GRANT program report by Patricia Gwidt. Three grant applications for educational programs were described and noted as all being National Hosta Display Gardens. Central IL requested \$300 for educational sign enhancements, Green & Gold requested \$300 for educational sign upgrades at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, and Northern IL requested \$300 for brochure upgrades at the Cantigny Park. Discussion of badly needed maintenance and restoration needed at the WI Rotary Garden featuring Eunice Fischer National Display Garden as a possible future

grant request will be relayed to AHS to stimulate such a request. Motion to approve the current three formal grant requests by Rustad, seconded by Schwartzbauer; approved by all.

Jack Barta hosta collection sale dispersal needed huge crate tubs and containers for the plant harvest. Mortko had verbally approved the minimal incidental expense to support the sale. Gwidt had paid the \$23.xx bill for three tubs; bill will be given to Keehn to reimburse Gwidt. Two of the tubs filled with hosta show vases will be delivered to the ROHS/Ames group for the 2023 AHS convention.

SPONSORSHIP of the Johnson County, KS International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) to be held in 2023 was requested. MRHS board has previously approved sponsorship but had not committed a specific amount. Mortko provided extensive history and financial details for this proposal. Highlighted details were of the critical volunteer involvement that group provided to MRHS for our convention held 2017 in Kansas City, and that we had made a \$9,037.71 profit. Vertz moved to provide \$5000 Silver Level sponsorship to the 2023 International Master Gardener Conference to be held in 2023, seconded by Gwidt; approved by all with Mortko abstaining. The Silver Level sponsorship is viewed as good will acknowledgment of past support and will result in our name and logo prominently displayed as Silver Sponsor (on conference brochure, conference app, and IMGC website), a 10x10 exhibitor booth at trade show, quarter page ad in conference brochure, name on printed and digital conference signage, and one conference registration. Mortko volunteered to represent us at the 2023 IMGC convention and will be a convention speaker. Ankney will be attending to represent AHS and may bring plants. Mortko will ask Tammy Borden to create the quarter page ad for MRHS.

WINTER SYMPOSIUM for 2023 was discussed. MRHS bylaws show the Director-at-Large organizes this event, although recent past events have been coordinated by Jack Barta and Glenn Herold. With Barta's passing, the organization appears to be primarily by Herold. Mortko reported that most aspects of the event are already in place, except for specific date and speaker arrangements. Schwartzbauer offered to secure speakers. The usual hotel in Brookfield, WI is doing renovations so may not be available until February 11, which is Super Bowl weekend. Mortko will check on availability for February 18, 2023. Registration fee will be determined with consideration of our break-even point and what the hotel sets for ho-

tel rate and food costs. It was noted that our usual seed auction may be challenged by the later symposium date, and that past events have provided speaker fee, lodging, and travel reimbursement for “keynote” speaker Bob Solberg. Motion by Schwartzbauer to hold the 2023 Winter Symposium with date and specific registration fees to be determined (Mortko-hotel negotiation), seconded by Ankney; approved by all.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS update provided by Gwidt. Glenn Herold and Pat Gwidt are co-chairs for 2024 to be held July 11-13 in Fond du Lac, WI at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. Hotel is booked, but not yet contracted. Seedling competition will be held. Convention gardens are identified, and all will be unique/new to hosta conventions. Two convention plants from Ankney’s garden (*H.* ‘Winnebago’, and *H.* ‘Fondy Ha-Ho’-spellings to be confirmed for both) honor Native American history of the convention area in WI. The 2024 convention does not have a local hosta society, so MRHS will need to provide financial backing. The successful 2017 Kansas City convention provides a prototype for this convention structure. Online registrations will be used. Herold and Gwidt will create the registration form. They have developed a tentative schedule to include Thursday night featuring special outings, garden tours held only on Saturday (with self-driving routes (no buses) for the four identified gardens), and a Friday night auction. Hosta display show details are undetermined. Vertz volunteered to do the name badges. Ankney volunteered to be the registrar. Hotel contract will be developed and sent to Mortko for review and approval. Auctions have been chaired by Barb Schroeder who has agreed to do this one more year. Vertz knows the auction system, and Rustad will also learn the auction process for future conventions.

AHS REGION V Representative Kay Dye requested details regarding a comprehensive list of local societies, including list of officers and contact information for MRHS Region V. Dye also noted that having local societies send board meeting minutes and any newsletters to her would be helpful. The Board will help provide information known to Dye.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:15 pm per motion by Vertz, second by Rustad; approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2022 @ Lisle, IL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Rob Mortko, Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad, Member-at-Large Mark Rekoske, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, AHS Region V Representative Kay Dye, Secretary David Dettmann. Absent: Webmaster Barry Ankney.

2022 CONVENTION REPORT:

Results presented for Hosta Leaf Show competition for Section I, II, III, IV, V, and Artistic Container. Sweepstakes winner was Kelly Giese of Plover, WI with 10 Blues.

Auction results yielded a grand total of \$6,400 from 106 items donated by 34 different individuals, vendors, and organizations. The highest single total bidder was Paula Lehtola from Bridgewater, MA; the largest single total donor was Mike Weber from Champaign, IL, for a sum of \$875 from eight plants; and the highest single plant bid (\$310 for *H. 'Goodness Gracious'*) was donated by Owen Purvis of Princeton, WI.

Seedling Competition had good involvement by exhibitors and voters. Sixty seedlings from eight different growers represented the nine classes for competition. Ninety attendees cast votes, and 56 of the possible 60 entries got at least one vote, and 25 different entries received at least one "Best of Show" vote. Winners were identified.

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:46 pm by President Rob Mortko who welcomed all in attendance. Board Members present as listed above were introduced.

SECRETARY REPORT: Mortko noted that 2021 and 2022 MRHS publications have contained the recorded minutes of various meetings of the Board and the 2021 membership meeting. Barbara King moved to ap-

prove the minutes as published without reading, seconded by Kathy Rustad; approved by all in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Mona Keehn identified current balances of \$13,133.55 in checking and \$57,049.48 in savings. Keehn presented the 2023 Budget for review and approval. Mary Schwartzbauer moved to approve the 2023 Budget as presented, second by Glenn Herold; approved by all in attendance.

Rob Mortko noted that all current members attending the 2022 Convention will have their membership term extended one year, and all non-members in attendance will be given a membership thru the end of 2022.

WINTER SYMPOSIUM was described by President Mortko. The event is planned for the usual location in Brookfield, WI. The specific date will be determined later due to hotel renovations and the annual Super Bowl creating a need to move the event to later in February, possibly Saturday 2/18. Participation in events such as the Winer Symposium and annual conventions were emphasized as being critical to maintaining a vibrant and growing hosta society.

MEMORIAL LIST of known MRHS members and friends who have passed away since the last convention was read by President Mortko. A moment of silence and reflection was invited to honor those memories.

REQUEST FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:55 pm by Barbara King, second by Mike Kraus; approved by all in attendance.

PROMOTION OF 2023 MRHS CONVENTION by Co-Chairs Kathy Rustad and Joe Parisi represented the host society, Shades of Green of Rochester, MN. The 2023 Convention will be held July 13-15, 2023, at the Convention hotel Best Western Inn. Convention theme is *Hosta dreamin'*.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Budget for 2023

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

| Last Updated: 10/21/2022 | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Category | 2022 Actuals (1/22-10/22) | 2022 Budget (approved June 2021) | 2023 Budget (approved July 2022) |
| Income: | | | |
| Membership Dues | \$ 720.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Convention | \$ 3,143.33 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Income-Interest | \$ 4.27 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Winter Symposium | \$ - | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Seed Auction | \$ - | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 3,867.60 | \$ 6,010.00 | \$ 10,010.00 |
| Expense: | | | |
| Award-Montgomery | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| Grants | \$ 5,900.00 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Liability Insurance | \$ 495.00 | \$ 450.00 | \$ 450.00 |
| Membership Expense | \$ 23.20 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 200.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 1,510.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 700.00 |
| Newsletter | \$ 289.64 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 750.00 |
| Internet Site | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Zoom Meetings | \$ 362.08 | \$ 600.00 | \$ - |
| Winter Symposium | \$ 30.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 8,609.92 | \$ 8,400.00 | \$ 9,900.00 |
| Net Totals | \$ (4,742.32) | \$ (2,390.00) | \$ 110.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Account Balances: | |
| Current | |
| Checking | \$ 8,528.21 |
| Savings | \$ 57,050.92 |
| Total Assets | \$ 65,579.13 |

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 mavertyz@gmail.com

BIG thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter.

Advertise in the *Hosta Leaves*

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



H. 'Thunderbolt'

| Full Color Ads: | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Size | Single Issue | Full Year | Dimensions |
| Full page | \$275 | \$475 | 6½" x 9½" |
| 1/2 page | 175 | 300 | 6½" x 4½" |
| 1/4 page | 90 | 155 | 3⅛" x 4½" |
| 1/8 page | 45 | 80 | 3⅛" x 2" |
| Black & White Ads: | | | |
| Size | Single Issue | Full Year | Dimensions |
| Full page | \$100 | \$175 | 6½" x 9½" |
| 1/2 page | 55 | 95 | 6½" x 4½" |
| 1/4 page | 40 | 70 | 3⅛" x 4½" |
| 1/8 page | 30 | 50 | 3⅛" x 2" |

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Mona Keehn, Treasurer
1635 Chippewa Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55091-8847

Membership

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice. If it says "2022" 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 Mona Keehn, 1635 Chippewa Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901-8847 for email newsletters.

Next summer's convention "**Hosta dreamin'**" will be hosted by the Shades of Green Hosta Society in Rochester, MN. 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!