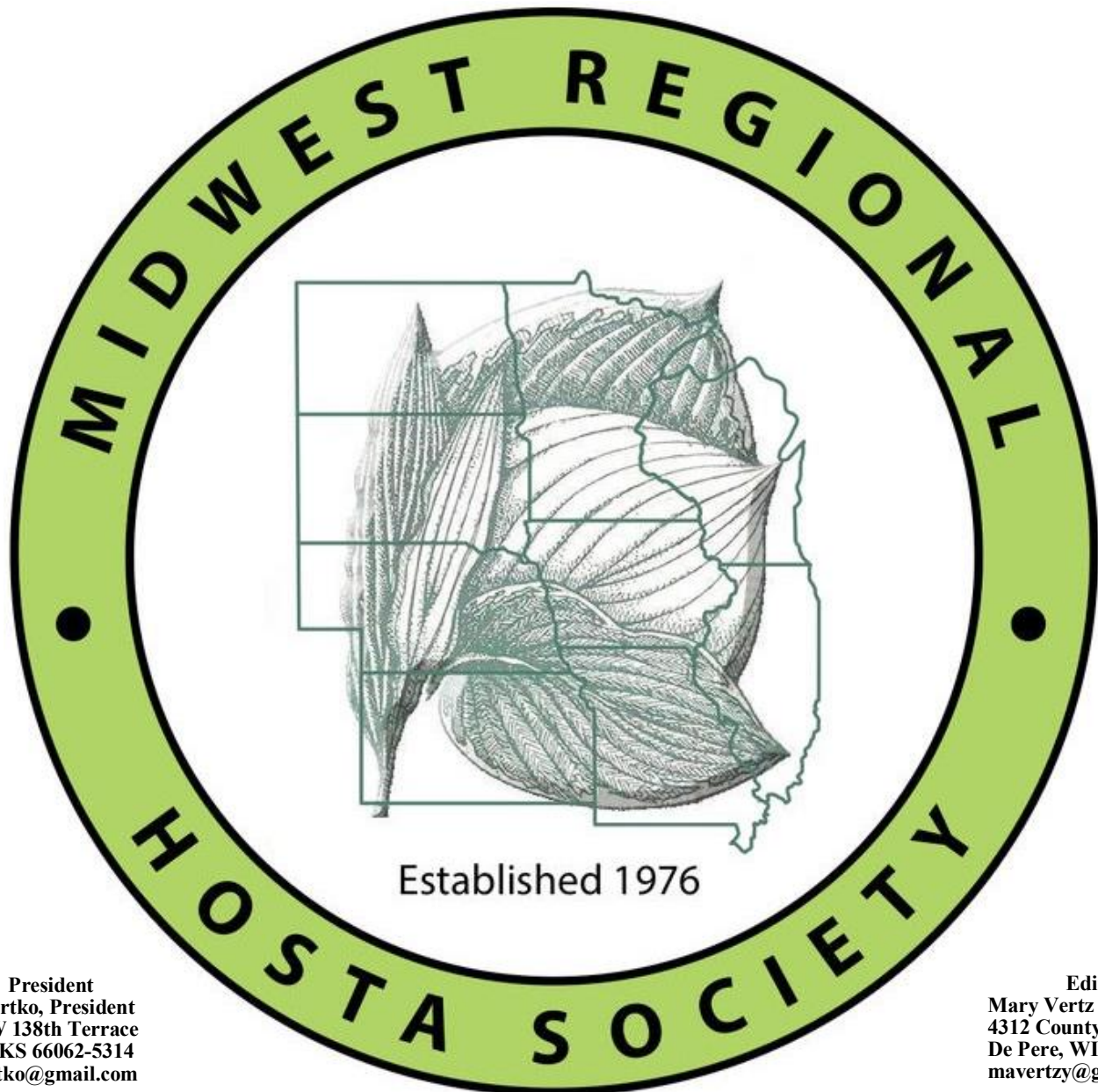


MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 94
Winter Symposium

SPRING 2023
2023 Hostas Chicago Style



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From the President's Desk

Greetings fellow hostaphiles. It is that long awaited time of year. Spring is all about that sense of rebirth. And speaking of rebirth – how about our recent Winter Symposium? After an absence of three years due to the pandemic, we were blessed with 101 registrations. The late February weather cooperated (mostly). The speakers were all on target. The hybrid combination of in-person and Zoom speakers worked well with no (obvious) A/V glitches. Hostatality included a special tribute to Jack Barta. It takes a village to accomplish what Jack largely did himself. Many thanks to Dave Collura for handling registration/check-in; thanks to Mary Schwartzbauer for coordinating our speaker lineup; thanks to Pastor Rob James for chairing the seed sales/auction; thanks to hybridizer Jeff Moore for his seedling donations for auction; and thanks to Phil Timm for chairing the Friday evening hostatality event. And a special thanks to Ken Hosale for putting together a slide show tribute to Jack Barta.

Looking forward, our summer convention will be held in Rochester, MN this July and hosted by the Shades of Green Hosta Society. If their “over the top” promotional video presentation is any indication, this will be an event not to be missed. This group of over-achievers is one of the most energized, enthusiastic and hard-working groups I have ever encountered. You will find more info on the convention in this newsletter. Don't wait any longer to register! All of you who attend the summer convention will be given a complimentary one-year extension on MRHS membership.

I would like to highlight a proposed MRHS Bylaws revision that will be voted on at the summer convention. More info on the revision can be found in this newsletter as well as on the MRHS website. In essence the revision will allow the MRHS

Treasurer and the Board to streamline and more accurately develop the annual budget. Your MRHS Board unanimously supports this revision and asks for your support.

I've said it before and I will say it again. 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.” See you in Rochester!

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

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) extends a warm welcome to our new 2023 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! David Collura, MRHS Membership Chair



H. 'Neptune'

**New MRHS Website password,
effective May 15th:
neptune23**



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.



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>

Are you going to *Hosta dreamin'* ?

I'm looking for 6 Field Editors to write articles on the tour gardens for the fall newsletter. Pick a garden to write about; pictures are optional as I'll be taking plenty of photos too! For a list of Tour Gardens go to: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/HOSTA%20DREAMIN/2023%20Gardens.shtml>

Email me at mavertzy@gmail.com to volunteer.

See you at *Hosta Dreamin'* !



**Don't Miss the Convention of Your Dreams!
Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
Rochester, Minnesota,
July 13-15, 2023**

Join garden enthusiasts from around the country at the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, July 13-15, 2023, at the Best Western Rochester Hotel 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 of color and size and ability to thrive in Minnesota's Zone 4 climate.

Each Convention attendee will receive an exclusive Convention Gift 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 Picnic at the breathtaking gardens of Camp Creek Farm in Preston, MN, tours of spectacular private gardens featuring vast collections of hostas in a variety of settings, educational sessions presented by world-class experts, an accredited Hosta Show, a Rod Kuenster Hosta Seed Growers Seedling Show, live auction, 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, allowing visitors to experience first-hand the captivating colors, shapes and sizes that Hostas afford.

**Register today for *Hosta dreamin'*, the Convention of
Your Dreams.**

**Registration and further information at:
<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>**

**Convention Preview Video at:
<https://tinyurl.com/hostadreamin>**

Hosta Associates
A Better Lawn through Proper Fertilization

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Nothing shows off your hosta beds better than a well-maintained lawn. In order to maintain a dense, green, and healthy lawn, regular fertilization is required. Most homeowners refer to this as “feeding” the turf but in reality, the grass feeds itself by producing carbohydrates (food) in the process of photosynthesis. Along with these sugars, small amounts of minerals, found in fertilizers, are needed for sustained growth. The grass is able to obtain some of the minerals from the soil. However, for maximum growth and health, additional nitrogen and other nutrients are required. Nitrogen, along with phos-



Glenn Herold

“A well-maintained lawn is like wall-to-wall-carpeting in the landscape”

phorus and potassium, are the main nutrients found in lawn fertilizers. A bag labelled as 20-5-10 contains 20% nitrogen, 5% phosphate, and 10% potassium. Many states, though, including Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, have banned the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers for turf or lawn areas. These laws are designed to protect local water quality in lakes, streams, and ponds.

Nitrogen is the element most likely to be in short supply in turfgrass culture because it is highly soluble in the soil and quickly leaches out of the root zone of the grass. The turf needs it for color, growth, heat and cold tolerance, and resistance to disease. Phosphorus is primarily required for seedling establishment and rooting. Since it is unlikely to leach, it is rarely in short supply in loamy soils. Potassium is necessary for root growth of established turf and for stress tolerance. It is not required in high amounts but may become a factor that limits development in some soils.

In order for the grass to take up nutrients it must have a healthy root system and an adequate supply of stored carbohydrates. The soil needs to be well-aerated and moist and have favorable temperatures. Compacted, dry or waterlogged soils and cold temperatures are detrimental to nutrient uptake.

There are many different types of fertilizers available to the homeowner. Most reasonably priced fertilizers have high amounts of synthetic inorganics in the mixture. They are soluble and not temperature dependent but can burn the turf if used in excess. The plant responds to them quickly but they only last about four weeks in the soil before they leach out of the root zone. Examples are ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate.

On the opposite end of the fertilizer spectrum are natural organics, which are materials derived from plant and animal matter. The grass reacts slowly to them because microorganisms in the soil are required to release the nitrogen from the product. Therefore, burning the turf through rapid release of nitrogen is unlikely. The most commonly used natural organic

is Milorganite, which is composed of heat-dried microbes that have digested the organic matter in wastewater from Milwaukee. Turfgrasses have no preference whether they obtain nutrients from a synthetic product or a natural product.

Urea is another product commonly found in reasonably priced fertilizers. Technically, it is organic but man-made; therefore, it is classified as a synthetic organic. The broad definition of an organic product is that it contains the element carbon. Urea contains carbon, though it is not derived from living matter. Characteristics of urea are similar to those of synthetic inorganics. The grass will quickly green up after application but can be burnt with overapplication.

Slow-release products are often mixed with quick-release to minimize the possibility of burn. Fertilizers that contain these materials cost more but they also extend the effectiveness of the product. Ideally, you would like a constant supply of nutrients to be available to the grass during the growing season, and use of these products make that possible.

The amount of fertilizer required depends on the type of grass, whether you water your lawn, or if you remove the clippings when you mow. Watering and clipping removal greatly increases the amount of fertilizer required. I usually fertilize my lawn four times during the growing season. The first application is in late April and is combined with a crabgrass preventer. The product is high in soluble, quick release nitrogen sources, which work best in cool spring soil. My second application is in mid-June. I use a half rate of crabgrass preventer, in order to extend the effectiveness of this material, and half Milorganite. A third application, in late August is a blend containing mostly Milorganite. I put down my last application in late October and consider it the most important, since it encourages root growth and winter hardiness. The product I use is high in potassium and is soluble, allowing it to be taken up by the roots before winter. This late fall application also encourages early spring green up.

Too much nitrogen will result in a dark green lawn but a poor root system. Therefore, a dark green lawn may look nice to the untrained eye but in reality, is not healthy. Even with turfgrasses, moderation is best. Though it might seem overwhelming at first, with a little information and practice, you can have both a healthy, great-looking lawn and hosta garden.

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



Winter Symposium 2023

Recap by Mary Vertz

It was great getting together at the Winter Symposium, after a three year hiatus! Started out with Hostatality on Friday, where old friends enjoyed meeting face to face; new friends were made; and a tribute to Jack Barta was shown.

On Saturday, we enjoyed six great speakers, seed sales, silent auction and great food! Speaker line-up included Glenn Herold (*Glad You Asked*), Donald Lewis (*Pests of Hostas, Cutworms, Slugs and Nematodes; Oh My!*), Josh Spece (*New Hostas 2023..... and Beyond*), Bob Solberg (*Are Hostas People ,Too!*), Mark Zillis (*Hosta Highlights*), and Cindy Tomashek (*Jumping Worms*). Thanks to modern technology that matured during the pandemic, Bob Solberg and Jose Spece where able to to take time out of their busy schedules to join us via Zoom. The other four speakers where in-person and in the hot-seat at the podium.

After a brief introduction by our President, Rob Mortko, Barry Ankney talked about *H. 'Strike Up the Band'*, a hosta named to honor the late Jack Barta.



Glenn Herold started out the morning speakers with sharing pictures of the many unique plants he and Terry have acquired since purchasing their house in 2010. They have transformed their 'blank slate' into a lush unique landscape. Here's a few of the pictures he shared with us.



Quercus aliena
Oriental White Oak



Filipendula rubra
Queen of the Praire



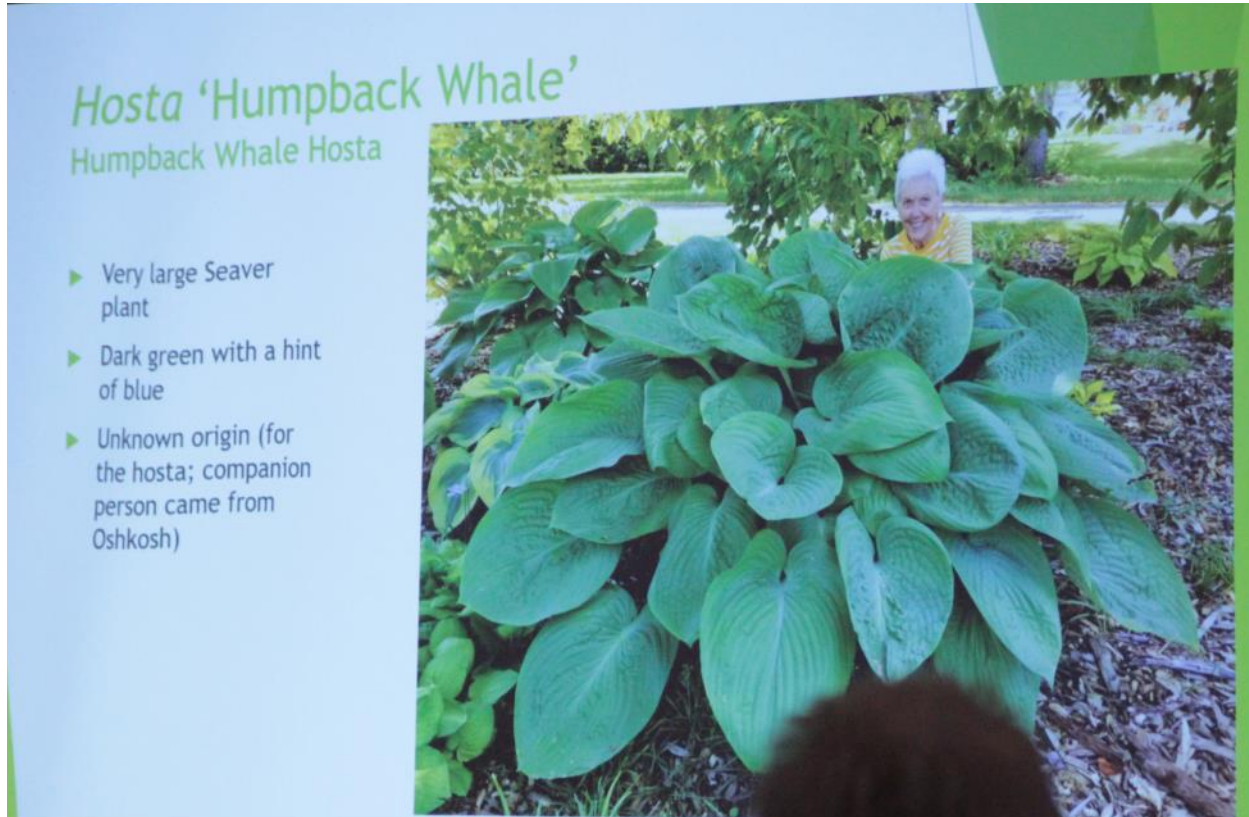
Early years on the prairie.



Maturity on the prairie.



***Silphium perfoliatum*
Cup Plant**




After a morning break to enjoy coffee, buy seeds and bid in the silent auction, Donald Lewis talked about hosta pests and ways to control them. Here's a recap on a few of them!






Variegated Cutworm

- Destruction of emerging leaves at the center of the crown
- Handpicking
- Insecticide
 - Bait
 - Spray
 - Dust



Hosta Foliar Nematode

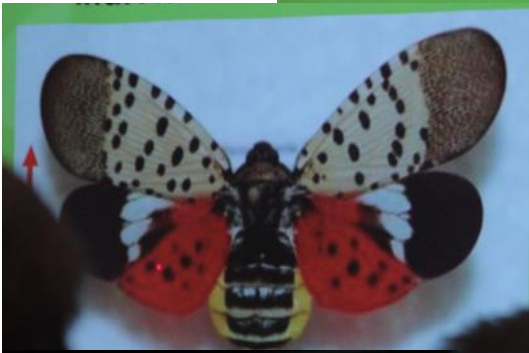
- Microscopic roundworms
- 0.5-1.0 mm long (1/50th inch)
 - Not visible to naked eye
- Live, feed and reproduce inside hosta leaves
- *Aphelenchoides fragariae*
- Since 1990s
- Mysterious appearance
 - 2014



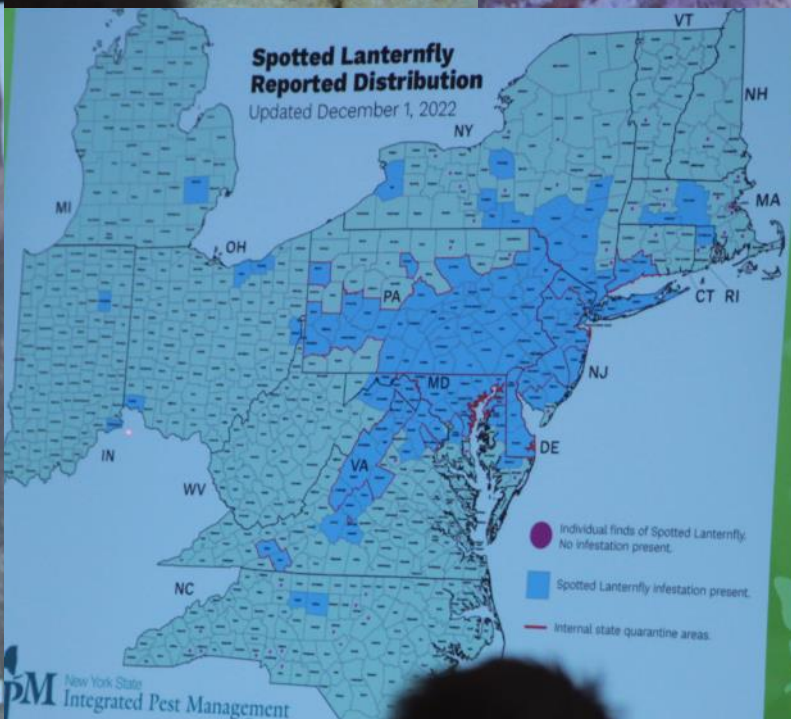
Be on the lookout for this new pest!

Spotted Lanternfly

- Newest invasive insect
- Pennsylvania, 2014
- Planthopper from China, India, Vietnam
- Beautiful but dangerous
- Sap feeder on more than 70 types of plants
- Grapes, tree and stone fruits, hardwood trees, landscape ornamentals



Lawrence Barringer, PDA, Bugwood



After a brief break, Josh Spece joined us via zoom to tease us with pictures of new hostas offerings for this year. Here's a few of his teasing photos!



Hosta 'Catcher's Mitt'



Hosta 'Light the Match'



Hosta 'Hogwarts'



Hosta 'Superfecta'



Hosta 'Mango Lettuce'



Hosta 'Mouse Metamorphosis'

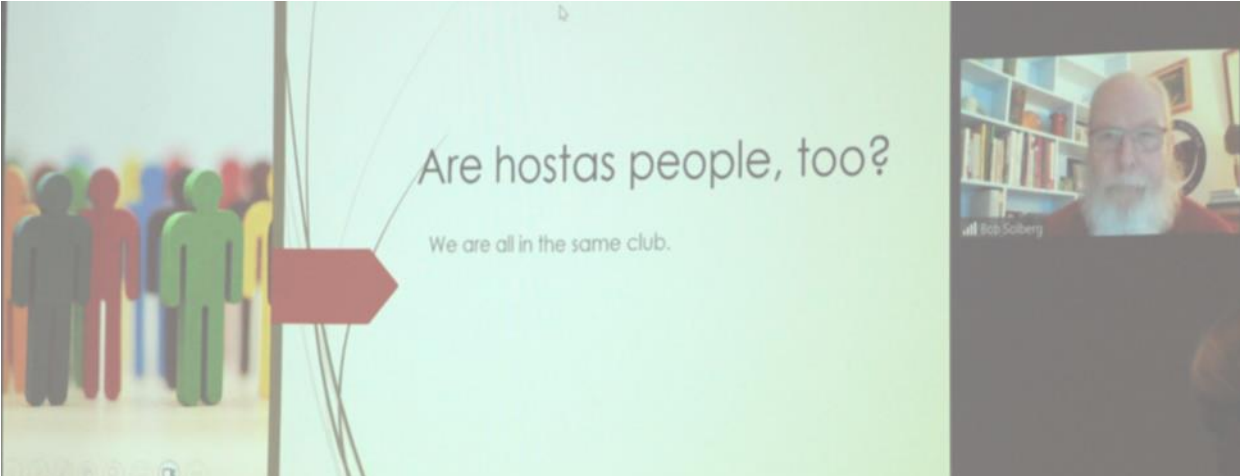


Hosta 'When I Dream'

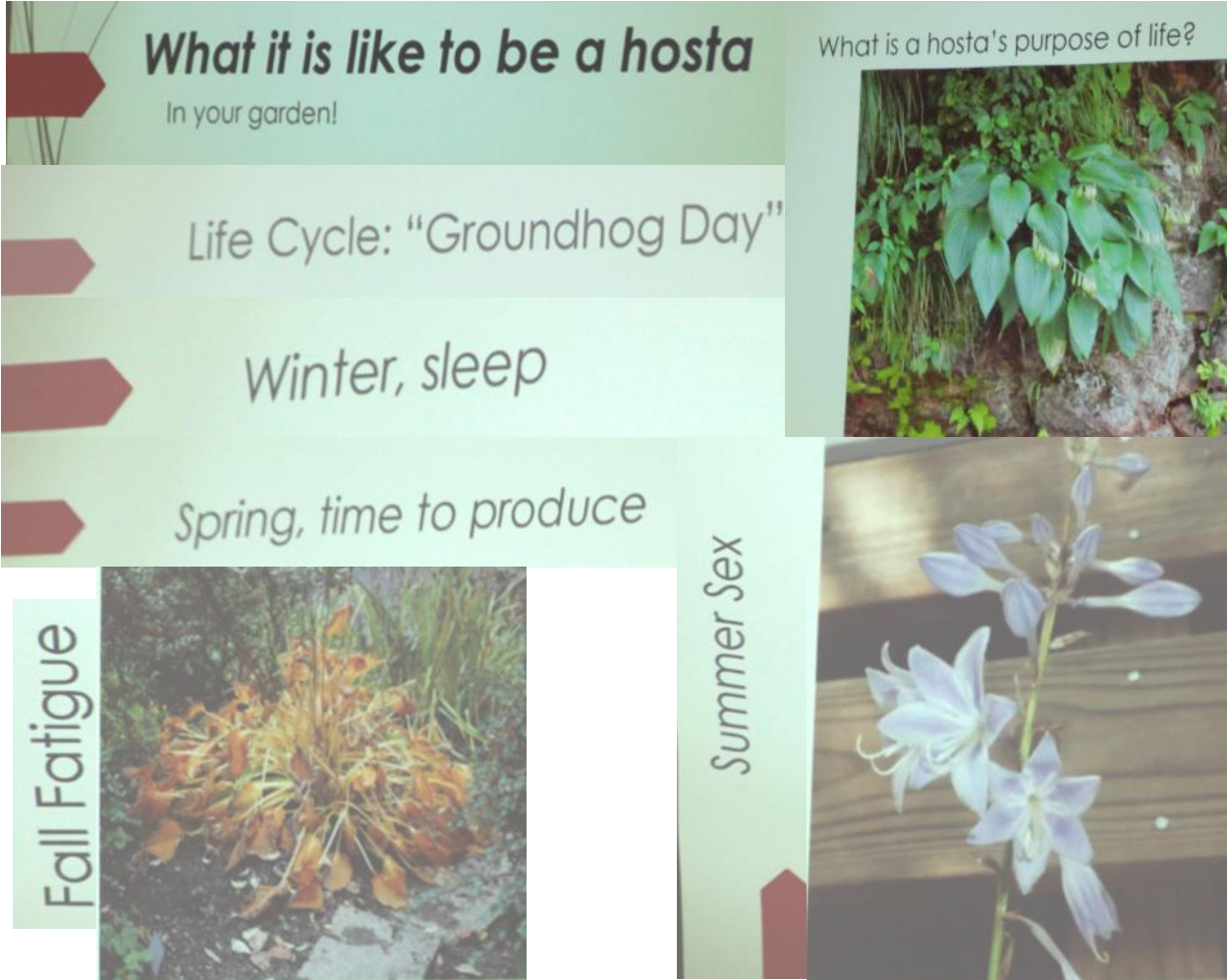


Hosta 'Voices in the Wind'

After lunch, seed buying, and checking out the silent auction, Shades of Green gave a presentation on *Hosta dreamin'*. Then Bob Solberg joined us via zoom. He posed the question:



He followed it up with some very compelling observations to answer the question.



Hostas have needs too!

Light Intensity

► Tips:

- Latitude, Slope, Time of Year
- Avoid Hot Sun
- Gardens get shadier
- Gardens get rootier!
- Plant in "too much" sun

Water Requirements

► Tips:

- High in spring when making leaves and roots.
- Maintain soil moisture in summer for flowering.
- Reduce irrigation to promote dormancy.

Nutrition

► Tips:

- Nitrogen and Magnesium are the most important nutrients.
- Their favorite fertilizer
- Heavy fertilization in the spring to make leaves.
- Maintain nutrients throughout summer's heat.
- Foliar feed "tomato food" for Giant Hostas!

Bob also pointed out that hostas have 'Psychological' and 'Social' needs too. Psychologically among other things, they are "content in the present" and "We should be more like them."

Socially, they are:

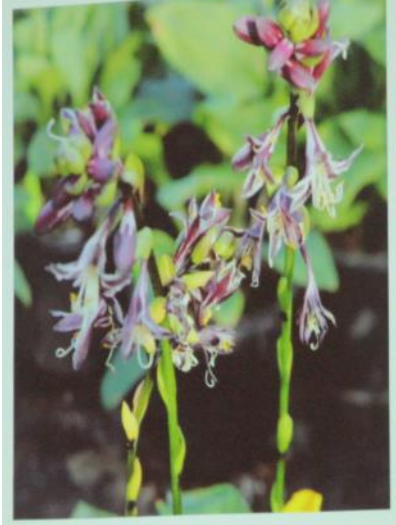
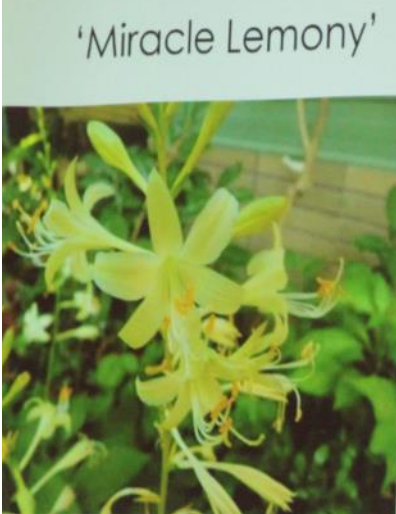
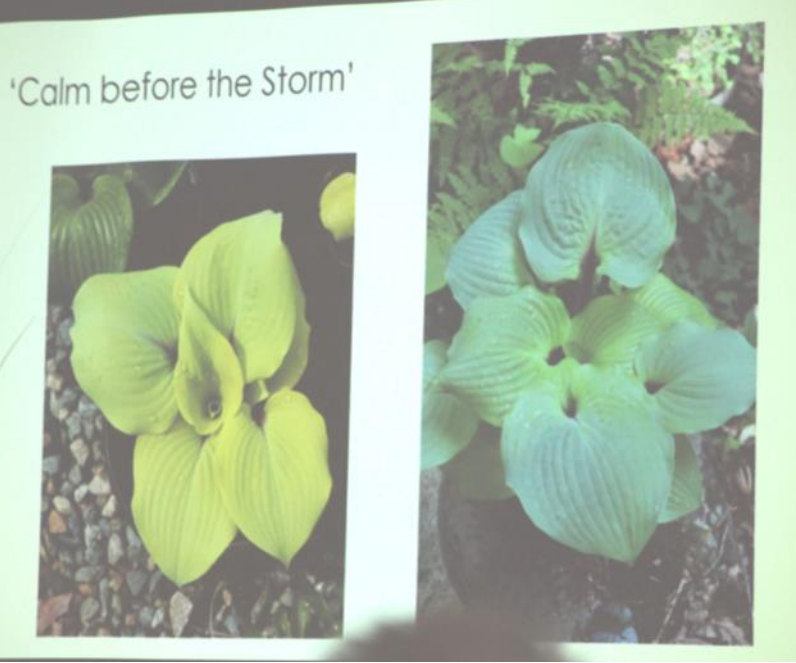
"Atractive and friendly";

"Hostas are our friends";

"And hostas come with friends";

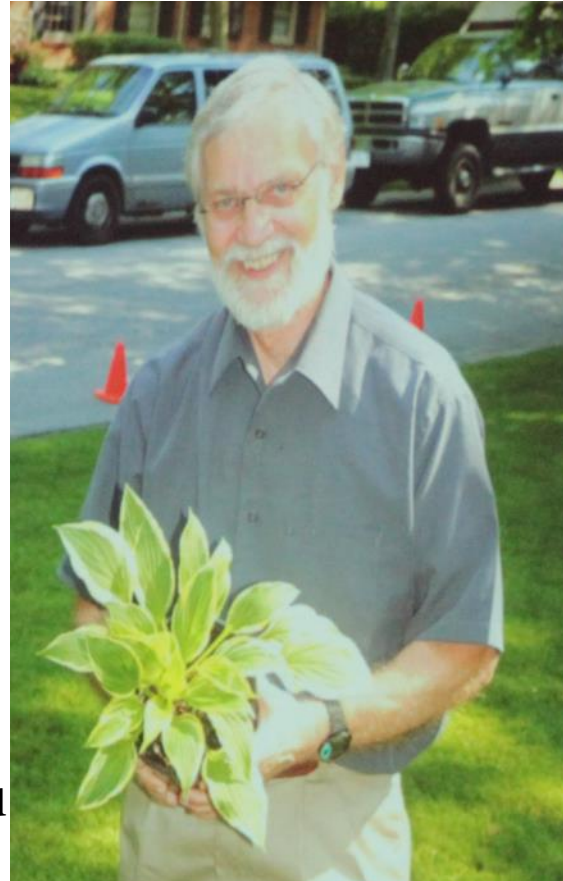
"They love us as much as we love them"

Bob then shared some information on his 'Sports Bar' series, hostas with uniquely colored flowers, and one of his newest introductions *H.* 'Calm Before the Storm' that starts are yellow and turns blue later in the season. Talk about personality!



After everyone had an opportunity to buy more seeds and put in final bids in the silent auction, Mark Zilis was at the podium. He started out his presentation ‘Hosta Highlights’, by sharing with us highlights of his longtime friendship with the late Bob Olson. They shared many adventures through the years and Mark will miss him.

Mark posed the question “How many hostas are there? 10,000???, 12,000???, 15,000???” There are over 6,500 registered hostas, and who knows how many unregistered hostas. Hybridizers are creating new ones everyday and Mother Nature creates new ones through sporting!




Our final presenter was Cindy Tomashek. She shared with us everything she has learned about Jumping Worms. Here are a few highlights. Check out the [WI DNR](http://www.widnr.gov) website for more info.


Egg-filled cocoons shed the previous year by adult jumping worms survive winter in the soil and begin hatching in the spring. It takes roughly 60 days for a jumping worm to go from a new hatchling to a reproductive adult. **As soon as they reach sexual maturity, they begin shedding egg-filled cocoons.** Jumping worms' populations accumulate over the summer as generations overlap. Wisdnr.gov

Control options:
HANDPICK when JW have reached near adult size (mid-June). **BE MINDFUL** of putting them in the as the **SMELL WILL BE HORRIBLE**. I bury dead worms in a deep hole instead.

TIP: Add 1 cup of ammonia and ½ gallon of water to the bucket so when you drop them in they die very quickly. You can also drop them into a baggie of rubbing alcohol or ammonia or vinegar if you have a small infestation.



Just because they don't need a partner to mate, doesn't mean they don't prefer it



The bigger the worm, the deeper it burrows, certainly to at least a 6" depth by fall.

JW "freeze" in place when disturbed until you pick them up. The substance they secrete when threatened causes soil to stick to them and makes them hard to see.

Worms quickly move to the perimeter of area you're searching or treating, so look there.

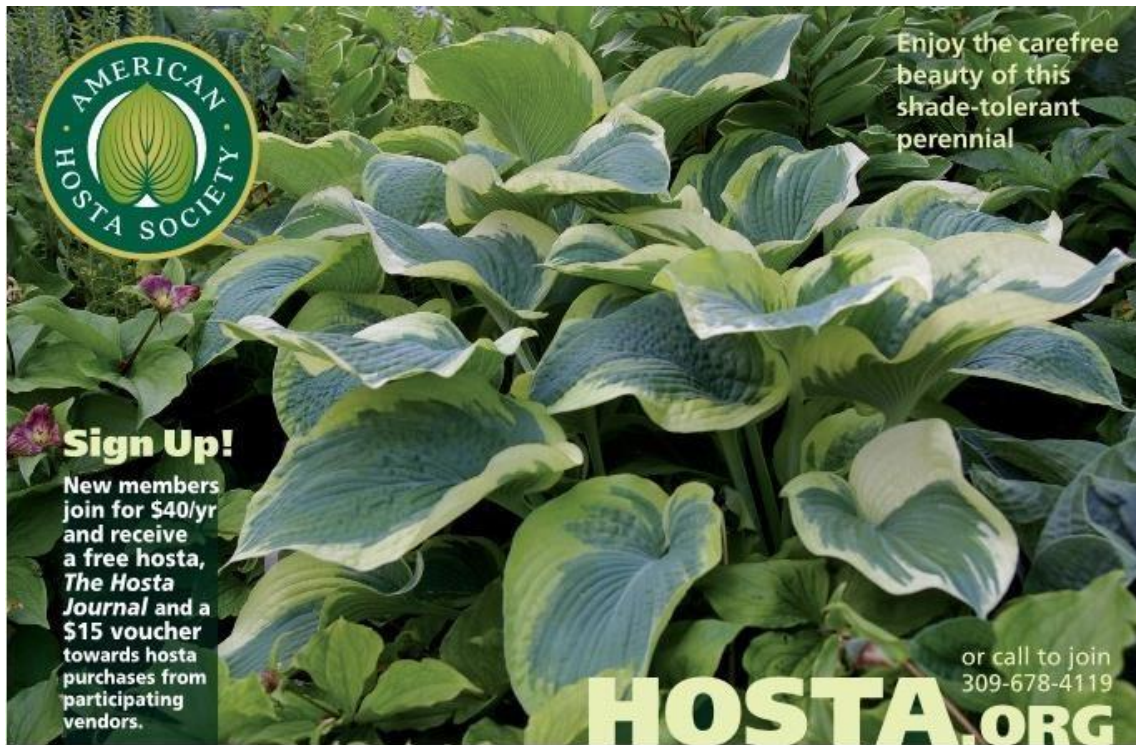


Hosta 'Strike up the Band' is a tribute to Jack Barta.

It will be available for sale in the spring of 2025. Proceeds will fund memberships in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and the American Hosta Society. You can reserve your plant by calling 309-678-4119 or email Barry.Ankney@gmail.com.



Photos by Don Dean, the originator and donor of this plant.
The plant was named by Becky Micheletti.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

- Receive two print issues per year of our popular publication, *The Hosta Journal*. This 84-page publication is filled with color photos and current information regarding hostas.
- Receive a copy of *The Hosta Adventure, Third Edition – A Growers Guide* and the *Hosta of the Year* booklet, both filled with color photographs and a wealth of information.
- Receive access to the members-only section of the website to read our *Online Hosta Journal* and access other publications and member directory.
- Attend national and regional meetings where specialty vendors offer the most recently introduced hostas and companion plants and where a live auction offers rare and distinctive hostas and other garden items.
- Enjoy garden tours open only to AHS members.
- Exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Vote on the most popular hostas with our popularity poll.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow *Hosta* enthusiasts.

For more information or to join go to hosta.org or call 309-678-4119.

MRHS Business News.....

Proposed MRHS Bylaws Revision

From time to time the MRHS board is required to review the society bylaws to assure that they continue to reflect the purpose and operations of the Society. The bylaws were last updated in June of 2019. The Board is proposing the following revision to the society bylaws to streamline the annual budgeting process and to improve the accuracy of the proposed budget. In accordance with our bylaws, this proposed revision is being published in the Spring newsletter and posted on the MRHS website in advance of a vote at the Annual Meeting to be held at this summer's MRHS convention in Rochester, MN.

Current MRHS Bylaws (last revised June 2019)

Article IV – Section 5

“The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval at the annual meeting. Expenditures under the approved budget may not exceed the total amount of approved expenditures in the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Board.”

Discussion

A current focus of the MRHS board is to produce a balanced budget where revenues offset expenses. In light of the comfortable financial situation of the society with ample assets in checking and savings, the goal of the board is to simply operate the society in a breakeven situation.

The development of the proposed budget under the current bylaws requires the MRHS Treasurer to develop the proposed budget for the following year in February of the current year so that it can be published in the Spring Newsletter and then approved at the Annual Meeting held at the Summer Convention. It is felt that developing a budget for next year, some 10 to 20 months in advance of any revenues/expenses, and before essentially any revenues/expenses are incurred in the current year cannot produce a reasonably accurate budget forecast. It is proposed to follow the AHS bylaws budget process timeline in this regard. The AHS Board develops a budget at their November meeting for the following year. The budget is then approved at that same time by the Board. This is consistent with the overwhelming majority of both non-profit and for-profit organizations. This proposed revision would in no way diminish any financial

transparency as the society financials would continue to be reported in each society newsletter and at the summer convention annual meeting.

Proposed Revision (July 2023)

Article IV – Section 5

“The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval ~~at the annual meeting by the Board at the end of the current year, and then presented for review at the annual meeting.~~ Expenditures under the approved budget may not exceed the total amount of approved expenditures in the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Board.”

MRHS Board of Director Elections

Our bylaws state that two consecutive terms (two years each) constitute maximum tenure for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Regional Director positions. The following positions have no term limits: Treasurer, Membership Chairperson, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Director at Large. At the time of our upcoming summer convention, Pat Gwidt will have served two consecutive terms as Vice President and David Dettmann will have served two consecutive terms as Secretary. A special thanks go out to both Pat and David for their service. Accordingly, a Nominating Committee was formed to identify possible replacements and to vet the candidates with the Board.

Normally the work of the Nominating Committee would not have been completed before the Spring Newsletter goes to press. However this year’s Nominating Committee of Barry Ackney, David Dettmann and Mary Schwartzbauer was especially efficient and we are happy to share the proposed slate of officers in this newsletter.

Mike Kraus has accepted the nomination as Vice President. You may recall that Mike served as co-chair of last year’s convention in Chicago. Mike is also the current President of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society.

Long time MRHS Director at Large Mark Rekoske has agreed to move from that position to the Secretary position.

Phil Timm has accepted the nomination as Director at Large and is anxious to embrace the job responsibilities in chairing the Winter Symposium. Phil was actively involved in our most recent Winter Symposium taking care of the Friday evening hostality event. Phil is also the current President of the Wisconsin Hosta Society.

As noted in the Board meeting notes, Membership Chair Kathy Rustad announced in December 2022 her intent to step down from the position given her relocation to Florida. Per our bylaws the vacancy was filled by appointment of the President, with approval of the Board. A big thanks to Kathy for her many years of service and a big welcome to David Collura as our new Membership Chair.

The balance of the current board members have agreed to serve another term. The following slate of officers will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting held at this summer's convention in Rochester:

PRESIDENT – Rob Mortko (for a second term)

VICE PRESIDENT - Mike Kraus (for a first term)

SECRETARY - Mark Rekoske (for a first term)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON – David Collura

DIRECTOR AT LARGE – Phil Timm (for a first term)

AHS REGIONAL DIRECTOR – Kay Dye (for a second term)



MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
Electronic Work Session Minutes
Winter Conference Budget
November 5, 2022

MRHS President Rob Mortko initiated an electronic work session for the Board to develop and approve a working budget for the 2023 Winter Symposium. He reported that the hotel and a/v contracts have been signed and the six speakers have been arranged for the event. Budget factors emphasized were that three presenters will be in person and three via Zoom, hotel rate has increased slightly from \$105 to \$109 per night, food costs are unchanged, a/v costs can be substantially reduced by using a sound system owned by Mortko, a new \$300 charge for the meeting room use appears reasonable, and increasing the registration rate from past \$59 to \$69 per member and \$69 to \$79 for non-members (who receive a one year MRHS membership). The break-even point was formulated to be for 80 paying registrants, which would actually net income of \$184. Mortko sent the proposed detailed Winter Symposium budget to the Board members. Following review and discussion, board support was provided by Webmaster Barry Ankney, Member-at-Large Mark Rekoske, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Secretary David Dettmann, and Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz. No opposition to the proposed budget plan was identified.

**Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary**



MIDWESTERN REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
Electronic Work Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2022

President Rob Mortko contacted MRHS board members via e-mail and requested Board discussion and action regarding Membership Chair Kathy Rustad's communication that she has moved to Florida. Rustad will be unable to attend Board meetings in person, and has thus tendered her resignation. Rustad has offered to continue to serve until she is replaced. Mortko accepted the resignation. MRHS bylaws (Article V, Section 2) stipulate that "Vacancies other than the Presidency occurring between meetings shall be filled by appointment of the President, with approval of the Board." Mortko contacted Dave Collura to fill the Membership Chair position, and both Mortko and Rustad reviewed the position with Collura who is willing to accept the role. Mortko requested Board approval.

Approved by Webmaster Barry Ankney (12/1/22 @ 11:343 am), Treasurer Mona Keehn (12/1/22 @ 12:L05 pm), Member-At-Large Mark Rekoske (12/1/22 @ 12:05 pm), Secretary David Dettmann (12/1/22 @ 2:05 pm), Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer) 12/1/22 @ 4:31 pm), Vice President Patricia Gwidt (12/1/22 @ 5:12 pm), Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz (12/1/22 @ 5:22 pm), Region V Representative Kay Dye (12/2/22 @ 6:04 am). Abstaining Membership Chair Kathy Rustad (12/9/22 @ 7:11 pm) and President Rob Mortko (12/9/22 @ 8:45 pm). Mortko noted Board approval was achieved for the appointment of Dave Collura to replace Kathy Rustad as MRHS Membership Chair.

**Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2023 Brookfield, WI**

ATTENDING: President Rob Mortko, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Member-At-Large Mark Rekoske, Webmaster Barry Ankney, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Membership Chair Dave Collura.

ABSENT: Region V Representative Kay Dye (excused absence)

GUESTS: Glenn and Terry Herold.

President Mortko called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES: The board had not previously formally approved the July 14, 2022 minutes. Schwartzbauer moved to approve as written, seconded by Rekoske; approved by all.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC MEETING MINUTES: Vertz moved to approve as written the minutes dated Dec. 1st, 2022, seconded by Schwartzbauer; approved by all.

PROJECTOR DONATION: The Jack Barta estate has a projector to donate to us. The projector is three years old and has been used once. Barta's nephew Tim Triolo will arrange the donation and would like to receive a non-profit 501.3.(c) donation letter; this will be arranged. The donation is appreciated.

JACK BARTA "SCHOLARSHIP"- to honor Barta's critical and dedicated contributions in arranging the Winter Symposium in past years, a "scholarship" of a complimentary registration for this year's Winter Symposium will be randomly drawn from the registration list. The winner of the scholarship will be announced on Saturday. The Shades of Green Hosta Society also contributed \$100 in honor of Jack to support this scholarship which will be considered on a yearly basis.

WINTER SYMPOSIUM UPDATE: Collura reported that as of this meeting time, there were 97 registered, including some new MRHS members. The break-even point was budgeted at 80 attendees. While registration numbers in early January were low, publicity pushes by Dye who sent messages to all club presidents and newsletter editors, and patience for attendees to make decisions produced a very satisfying attendance result.

2024 MRHS CONVENTION UPDATE: Glenn Herold and Patricia Gwidt are Co-Chairs and provided a summary of their work to date. A tentative schedule has been developed, which includes two optional outings on Thursday July 11, 2024, Friday July 12 morning will be MRHS Board meeting, Friday afternoon will be workshops (1-2 pm, 2:15-3:15 pm; need 2 more presenters), Friday evening will be the live auction, garden tours (currently 5 committed, looking for a 6th) will be done on Saturday July 13 morning, Saturday evening will be the MRHS Business Meeting and Awards. Other details at this time: Rod Kuenster will chair and has confirmed the Seed Growers' competition, Ankney is the Vendor Chair and arranging vendors, Vertz will do the name badges, Keehn is the convention treasurer, Ankney will be convention registrar, convention plants are in production ('Fondy' and 'Mini HaHa'), donated by Ankney who will register them, hotel rate of \$153 has been offered but a formal contract has not yet been signed, the convention site (Fond du Lac Radisson Hotel) will allow us to BYOB for the hostality nights, Gwidt and Herold will work on budget and financial needs, convention t-shirts have been designed, were modeled by Herold & Gwidt, and are being sold during event promotion at the 2023 Symposium; critical challenge is to get volunteers and need to get at least four more garden hosts; garden tours will be self-driving as buses will not be used for this convention.

MEMBERSHIP status was discussed. We have added approximately 50 members as courtesy membership from attending the last convention, and all provided e-mail addresses, so we

did not incur any communication costs; 27% of these have renewed membership so far. Motion to continue the new member recruitment program (convention attendees who are not members are gifted a membership through that year, convention members who are members get a full one year extension of membership) by Ankney, seconded by Gwidt; approved by all.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Vice President Gwidt and Secretary Dettmann will reach the end of their two-term limits in 2023. A Nominating Committee of at least three is needed; Ankney, Schwartzbauer, and Dettmann volunteered to serve as the Committee and will provide a slate of Officer candidates for election at the July 2023 annual convention. All other board members agreed to continue their office terms as allowed in the By-Laws.

MRHS BY LAWS UPDATE: Mortko led a discussion of items in the By Laws which may need some fine tuning. The budgetary process may be too complicated and can be more efficient with timing in the development, presentation and approval sequence for the Board and membership. Mortko read the American Hosta Society's By Law on budgets and will use that format to develop a version for us to consider. The proposal will be sent to the Board members for electronic meeting discussion, revisions as needed, and hopefully approval so that the new By Law proposal can be published in the upcoming Newsletter and considered for formal adoption by the Membership at the 2023 Convention. The Board also discussed a possible revision to the Job Description for the Member-At-Large position. After discussion, it was determined no changes were needed for the job description at this time.

2023 DeETTA MONTGOMERY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD was discussed. This award is not required to be given each year. The list of prior winners was reviewed. The Board will explore possible nomination(s) in electronic discussions

later and make this decision for 2023.

CONVENTION AUCTION COMPUTERS are old and running slow. Vertz researched possible replacements with two new computers which will need to network during the auction. She identified Dell Work Station Units (costing \$880.27 + tax each) which are a \$3000 savings due to being on a close-out sale. Network ports and cross over cables for communication between them are available; a rolling tote (costing \$99.99 + tax) to transport the computers was also noted as a need. Mortko had given preliminary purchase approval per By Laws, so the items have been bought. Formal purchase approval motion made by Ankney, seconded by Schwartzbauer; approved by all.

BOARD REPORTS:

TREASURER report by Keehn who presented a close out 2022 Budget report and discussed details. Year end balances were \$8,122.61 (checking), \$57,069.04 (savings) which included yearly interest income of \$15.12. Dettmann moved to accept the 2022 Budget financial summary as presented, seconded by Ankney; accepted by all.

2023 INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONVENTION in Overland Park, KS will have MRHS representation by Mortko (presenting) and Ankney. We have provided financial support to this event as a sponsor and will have a MRHS booth with Ankney staffing it, as well as promotion in their convention booklet. This arrangement was approved at a prior Board meeting and was in appreciation of the Johnson County KS Master Gardeners' significant support and involvement in making the 2017 convention in KC a success.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Vertz requested submission of materials for the spring newsletter by April 1. No fooling. She noted that only 22 newsletters are currently being distributed by postal mail.

COMMUNICATION DETAILS of our e-mail account (mrhs.hosta@gmail.com) was briefly discussed.

MEMORIALS were discussed as it was noted there is no formal standard for who is honored or memorialized. At the 2022 convention, Mortko reviewed a list of known deaths in recent time, with the understanding of risk of missing names. We have also sent flowers for several members who have died, and again noted that this is done on a case-by-case basis without formal process.

AHS-MRHS CONVENTION sequences, locations, and hybrid events were briefly discussed regarding potential future changes in procedures.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:47 pm via motion by Gwidt, seconded by Vertz; approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award
Electronic Work Session
March 1, 2023**

At the 2/24/2023 Winter Symposium held in Brookfield, WI, the MRHS Executive Board meeting supported considering nominations of worthy candidates for the DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award. President Rob Mortko initiated an electronic work session of the Executive Board on 3/1/2023 after receiving a nomination reference on 2/27/2023. After no other nominations were provided, the individual was formally nominated by Webmaster Barry Ankney, and seconded by Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz. Mortko called for a vote, with all Board members affirming the nomination: Membership Chair Dave Collura, Region V Representative Kay Dye, President Rob

Mortko, Webmaster Barry Ankney, Secretary David Dettmann, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Vice President Patricia Gwidt, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Member-at-Large Mark Rekoske, and Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz. At the conclusion of the Board vote on 3/3/2023, Mortko then requested Board members to explore options for the most appropriate person to introduce the selected individual at the 2023 convention when the identity of this most worthy awardee is revealed to the MRHS membership.

**Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
Electronic Work Session Minutes
MRHS Bylaws Article IV-Section 5
March 12-31, 2023**

MRHS President Rob Mortko initiated an electronic work session on 3/12/2023 for the Board to develop a revision of Bylaws Article IV-Section 5 regarding the budget process. The revision will improve the process which currently is challenging regarding timing in development, Board approval, membership approval, and implementation on a yearly basis. Mortko proposed using the current American Hosta Society budget process as a template for MRHS revision. Discussion by Board members refined the proposed wording to yield the following revision of Article IV-Section 5 as “The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval by the Board at the end of the current year, and then presented for review at the annual meeting. Expenditures under the approved budget may not exceed the total amount of the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Board.” The proposed revision will be published in the spring MRHS newsletter and

posted on the MRHS website in advance of a vote for approval at the Annual Meeting to be held at the July 2023 MRHS Convention in Rochester, MN.

Motion to approve the revised Bylaw Article IV-Section 5 by Newsletter Editor Vertz on 3/16, seconded by Treasurer Mona Keehn on 3/25, and approvals by Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer on 3/25, Vice President Patricia Gwidt on 3/26, Webmaster Barry Ankney on 3/29, Secretary David Dettmann on 3/29, President Mortko on 3/30, and Director-at-Large Mark Rekoske on 3/30.

No votes of opposition.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Dettmann, Secretary

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY Nominating Committee Report and Executive Board Electronic Minutes March 31, 2023

The February 24, 2023 Executive Board Meeting developed a Nominating Committee of three Board members volunteering to identify and present a slate of Officers to run for election to fill Officer positions as needed. Two Officers have reached their two-term limit: Vice President Patricia Gwidt, and Secretary David Dettmann. All other Officers agreed to continue their office terms as stipulated in Bylaws Article VI-Section 1. The Nominating Committee of David Dettmann (Chair), Webmaster Barry Ankney, and Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer presented the following slate of candidates who have agreed to serve: Mike Kraus (Vice President) and Mark Rekoske (Secretary). As Rekoske is currently serving as Director-at-Large, a replacement of Phil Timm was identified by President Rob Mortko. Timm is qualified in meeting the job description focusing on managing the Winter Conference as described in Article V-Section 11. Timm has accepted the position

and agreed to manage the annual Winter Conference.

Executive Board Electronic Action:

Webmaster Barry Ankney moved on 3/30 to approve the slate of Officers as submitted by the Nominating Committee, seconded by Mary Schwartzbauer on 3/30 with approvals from Treasurer Mona Keehn on 3/30, Secretary David Dettmann on 3/30, President Rob Mortko on 3/30, Director-at-Large Rekoske on 3/30, and Patricia Gwidt on 3/30. No votes in opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Dettmann, Secretary

Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

Midwest Hosta Society

2023 Rochester, MN July 13th–15th [‘Hosta Dreamin’](#)

2024 Fond du Lac, WI July 11th–13th, 2024

American Hosta Society

2023 Ames, IA June 7th–10th <https://hostaconvention.org/>

2024 Marlborough, MA June 19-22, 2024



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 (1/22-12/31/22)	2022 Budget (approved June 2021)	2023 Budget (approved July 2022)
Income:			
Membership Dues	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Convention	\$ 3,143.33	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Income-Interest	\$ 15.12	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Winter Symposium	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Seed Auction	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$ 4,298.45	\$ 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	\$ 2,486.57	\$ 100.00	\$ 700.00
Newsletter	\$ 611.87	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Internet Site	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Zoom Meetings	\$ 162.08	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Winter Symposium	\$ 230.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
Subtotal	\$ 9,908.72	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 9,900.00
Net Totals	\$ (5,610.27)	\$ (2,390.00)	\$ 110.00

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

When you're at the Rochester convention, be sure to check out the seedling competition. Always fun to vote for your favorite and see if you picked the winners! Also fun to grow hosta seeds! Amazing that a big beautiful hosta can start out so tiny!





2023 Hosta of the Year
H. 'Neptune'



AHGA

Check out the Hosta Growers website for details on the 2023 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



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:

I apologize for the picture quality in my Winter Symposium recap article. Pictures were taken from a side table and lighting was low. Hope you can make next year's Winter Symposium, so you can experience everything for yourself!

If you have any suggestions, pictures to share, or articles for future newsletters, please send to mavertz@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 mavertz@gmail.com. Unless noted, all pictures in this edition were taken by me.

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 2023 NEWSLETTER

David Collura
13600 W Graham St
New Berlin, WI 53151

Membership

Please check the expiration date on the label located above this notice or on the Subject Line on your email . If it says “2022”, 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 David Collura, 13600 W Graham St, New Berlin, WI 53151 for email newsletters. \$30.00 (\$15 per year) for paper copy mailed newsletters.

Join us in Rochester, MN 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.