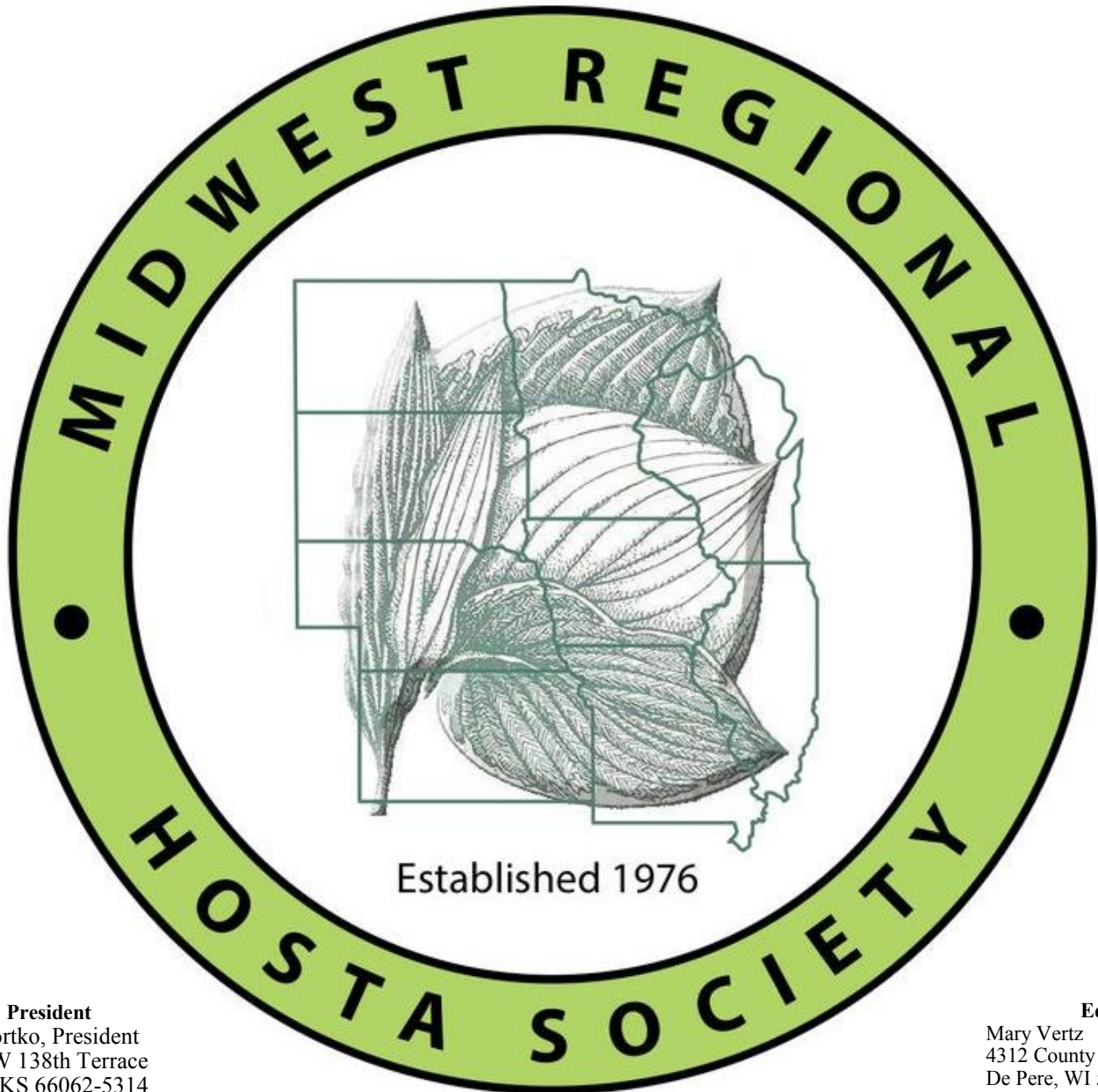


MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 96  
Winter Symposium

Spring 2024  
2024 Winnebago Haha, Fond du Lac, WI



**President**

Rob Mortko, President  
16370 W 138th Terrace  
Olathe, KS 66062-5314  
robmortko@gmail.com

**Editor**

Mary Vertz  
4312 County Road PP  
De Pere, WI 54115  
mavertz@gmail.com

**Vice-President**

Mike Kraus  
6311 Carrie Ct.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
kraus6311@comcast.net

**Secretary**

Mark Rekoske  
10902 Hickory Nut Way  
Richmond IL 60071  
marekoske@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Mona Keehn  
1635 Chippewa Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
chum721@gmail.com

**Membership**

David Collura  
13600 W Graham St  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
david.collura@att.net

# MRHS President's Message

## Spring 2024

Greetings fellow hostaphiles. It is that long awaited time of year, but wait a minute. At the time of this writing (mid-March) most of the Midwest is already about 3 weeks ahead of a normal spring schedule. In Kansas City we already have hosta pips emerging following a continued warm spell with temps in the 60's and 70's. But (as you might expect) this weekend nighttime temps will drop to the mid-20's. So brace yourself for an untimely freeze or two between now and early May.

How about that recent Winter Symposium? By any measure it was a huge success. The weather even cooperated this year. Our Friday evening "Meet and Greet the Fransens" hostatality event was especially fun. Thanks to Phil Timm for lining up an all-star speaker lineup. A special thanks to Marco and Joyce Fransen for travelling all the way from the Netherlands to speak. Pastor Rob James reinvented our silent auction with live plant donations from a number of hybridizers and hosta vendors. If you missed this event, put it on your calendar for next year. We schedule the Winter Symposium two weeks after the Super Bowl. Join a hundred or so other hostaphiles for this uniquely MRHS event.

Looking forward, our summer convention will be held this year in Fond du Lac, WI on July 11-13. Our convention will be hosted on the shores of Lake Winnebago by a couple of "cheeseheads". When a local club could not be found to host the event, Pat Gwidt and Glenn Herold stepped up to co-host with the support of the MRHS. Join Pat and Glenn for some Wisconsin hostatality. The "Countdown to Winnebago Haho" is on. In the words of the native Winnebago people, "haho" means a friendly greeting. And so it shall be. You will find more info on the convention in this newsletter and on the MRHS website. Don't wait any longer to register! As an added bonus, all of you who attend the summer convention will be given a complimentary one-year extension to your MRHS membership.

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. What first brought us together was a plant, but what keeps us coming back is the people. Haho captures that essence. See you in Fond du Lac!

Hosta'ly,

Rob Mortko  
MRHS President  
[robmortko@gmail.com](mailto:robmortko@gmail.com)  
16370 W. 138<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Olathe, KS 66062

**New MRHS Website members only password, effective when you receive this newsletter:**

**mini24**

---

## **Educational Grant**

As your new Vice-President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, I am asking the Hosta Societies within Region 5 who have an American Hosta Society National Display Garden to submit an Educational Grant Application which is enclosed at the end of this Newsletter. There is also a presentation identifying the guidelines for eligible projects attached. The process is as easy as one-two-three. One: Have an eligible Educational Project, Two: Fill out the Application, Three: Submit to: Mike Kraus MRHS Vice-President, 6311 Carrie Ct, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 or email the application to [kraus6311@comcast.net](mailto:kraus6311@comcast.net). All applications will be reviewed at the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board Meeting.

Hosta Associates

## Virginia Bluebells Ring in the Season of Spring

By Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

After three long months of winter, we all look forward to some sign of spring. For me, that sign is the emergence of woodland wildflowers in my front yard shade garden. One of the most conspicuous early risers is Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*. This member of the forget-me-not family, the Boraginaceae, loves rich, moist woodland soil and shade. In Wisconsin, it is found mostly in the southern counties but is scattered throughout the state. Virginia bluebells is one of two species of *Mertensia* native to the Badger state, the other being *Mertensia paniculata*, the Northern bluebells, which thrives in the boreal forest. Though they are similar in appearance, the leaves of Virginia bluebells are hairless while those of Northern bluebells are hairy on both sides of the leaf.

The genus *Mertensia* honors Franz Carl Mertens (1764-1831), a professor of botany in Bremen, Germany. The taxonomy of the genus *Mertensia* is less straightforward. Some botanists classify less than 20 species, while others have recorded over 100. Best guess is that there are between 40 and 60 species, many of which are considered threatened in their native range because of habitat destruction. The problem in classifying is that the plant is native to most of North America and much of Asia, but the species are difficult to distinguish from one another. Many are endemic to minute areas which are isolated from each other. Taxonomically, they may be similar in appearance, but reproductive isolation is one criterion for species classification. Most North American species are indigenous to very small areas of the Rocky Mountains.

*Mertensia virginica* is the exception, being found from Kansas in the west to Georgia, Alabama, and Maine in the east, and north into Canada. Hardiness ranges from zones 3 to 9. In Wisconsin it emerges in early April with deep purple leaves that quickly turn to blue-green or gray-green as the plant reaches its maximum height of two feet. Leaves are two to eight inches long, with the longer leaves at the base of the plant. Stems are near-

ly hollow and very fragile, with the appearance of a succulent plant. Virginia bluebells wastes no time in forming flowers. Loose clusters of tubular pink buds open into trumpet-shaped sky-blue flowers, rarely pink or white. Flowering is completed by mid-May. *Mertensia virginica* has the largest flowers of any species in the genus. Pollination is completed by bees, which often perforate the tube in order to reach the nectar. Butterflies and hummingbird moths also facilitate pollination. As the flowers fade, each will produce four nutlets. If soil conditions are to its liking, the plants will colonize.

Virginia bluebells is an ephemeral plant, meaning that the foliage dies down and gradually fades away after the seeds are dispersed. Since a colony of Virginia bluebells can leave quite a void in your garden, I recommend that other shade plants share its garden space. Hostas, ferns, coral-bells, and epimedium make great companions. Allowing the plant to go dormant on its own may create a messy appearance in the garden, so as soon as the leaves begin to turn yellow, I cut my plants down to the ground. To date, this has not adversely affected them; in fact, I've had plenty to give away to fellow shade gardeners. The fleeting nature of the plant may make it difficult to find in garden centers, though. Get there early in the spring so the plant will still be visible in the pot.

Virginia bluebells are easy to grow and their early emergence is welcome after a long winter. It performs best in moist soil. Some references say that the plant will gradually fade away in dry soil, but I have had no issues with my plants, despite their being planted under shallow-rooted Norway maples. The gnarled black-coated tuberous roots extend deep into the soil and help it to resist drought. *Mertensia* has no significant pests and is not favored by deer. It will quickly be favored by you, however, if you add it to your shade garden.

---

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

---



*Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells)

---



*Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells) showing early emergence



*Hosta 'Alligator Alley'*

## Notes on Winter Symposium

By Mary Vertz

If you didn't attend the Winter Symposium, you missed a great opportunity to catch-up with hosta friends, and bid on some unique hostas and garden accents.

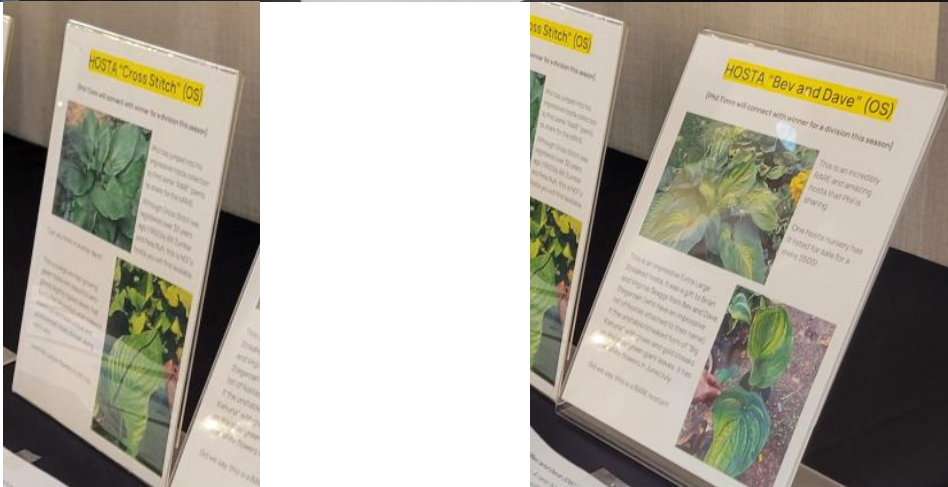
Those that arrived Friday night, enjoyed a great time visiting in Hospitality! And of course abundance snacks and beverages. Enjoy this picture review of the winter Symposium.



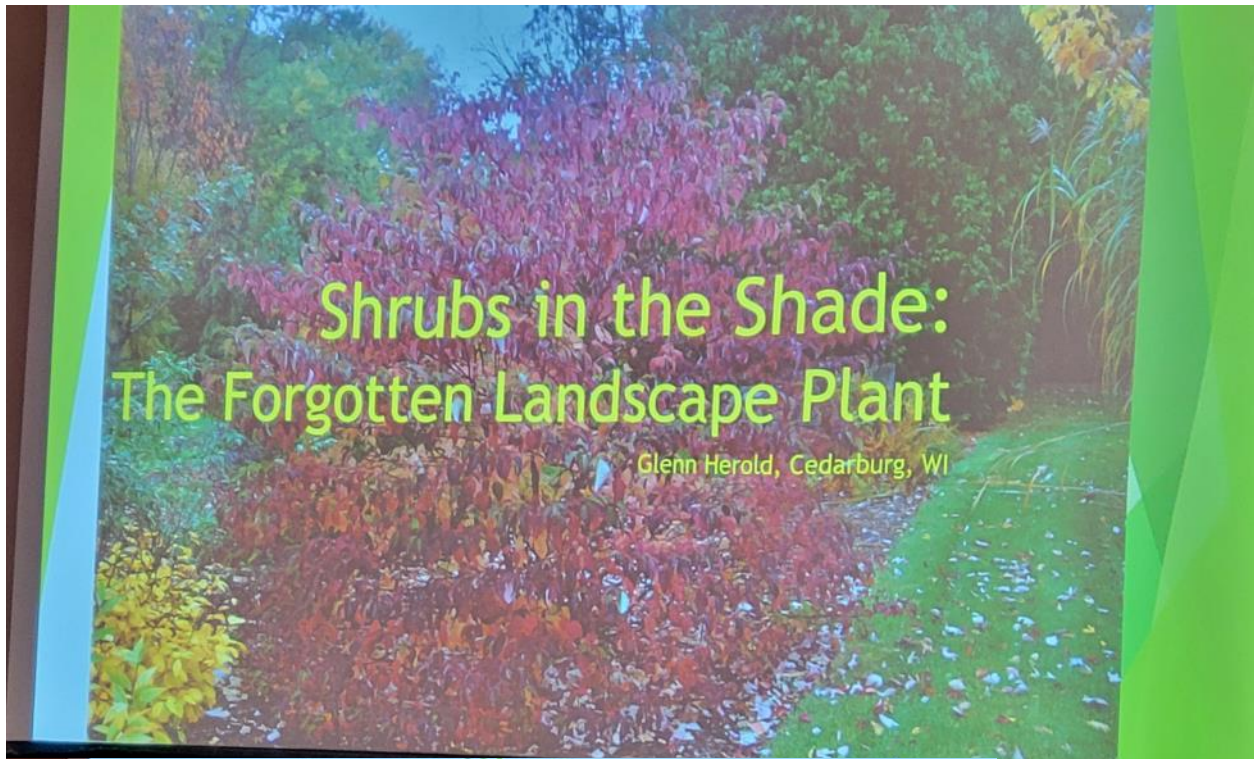


Saturday morning started out with fast and furious bidding on the many silent items laid out for viewing. Pastor Rob did a fantastic job of soliciting (pun intended). There were numerous one of a kind seedlings; some named and rare hostas; and other unique items dear to a gardener's heart!





After opening remarks, President Rob introduced our first speaker for the day.



One of Glenn's favorites!







*Dancing Hero*

One of many hostas  
Marco teased us with!



Who hasn't pack their van full!

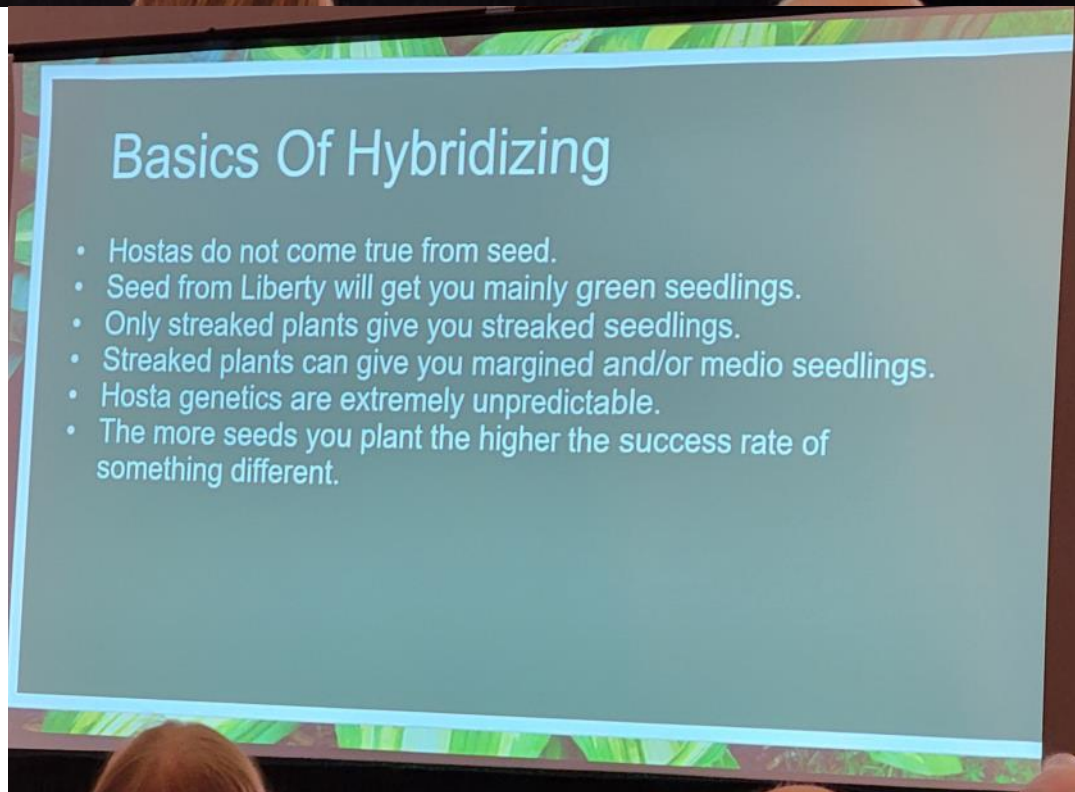
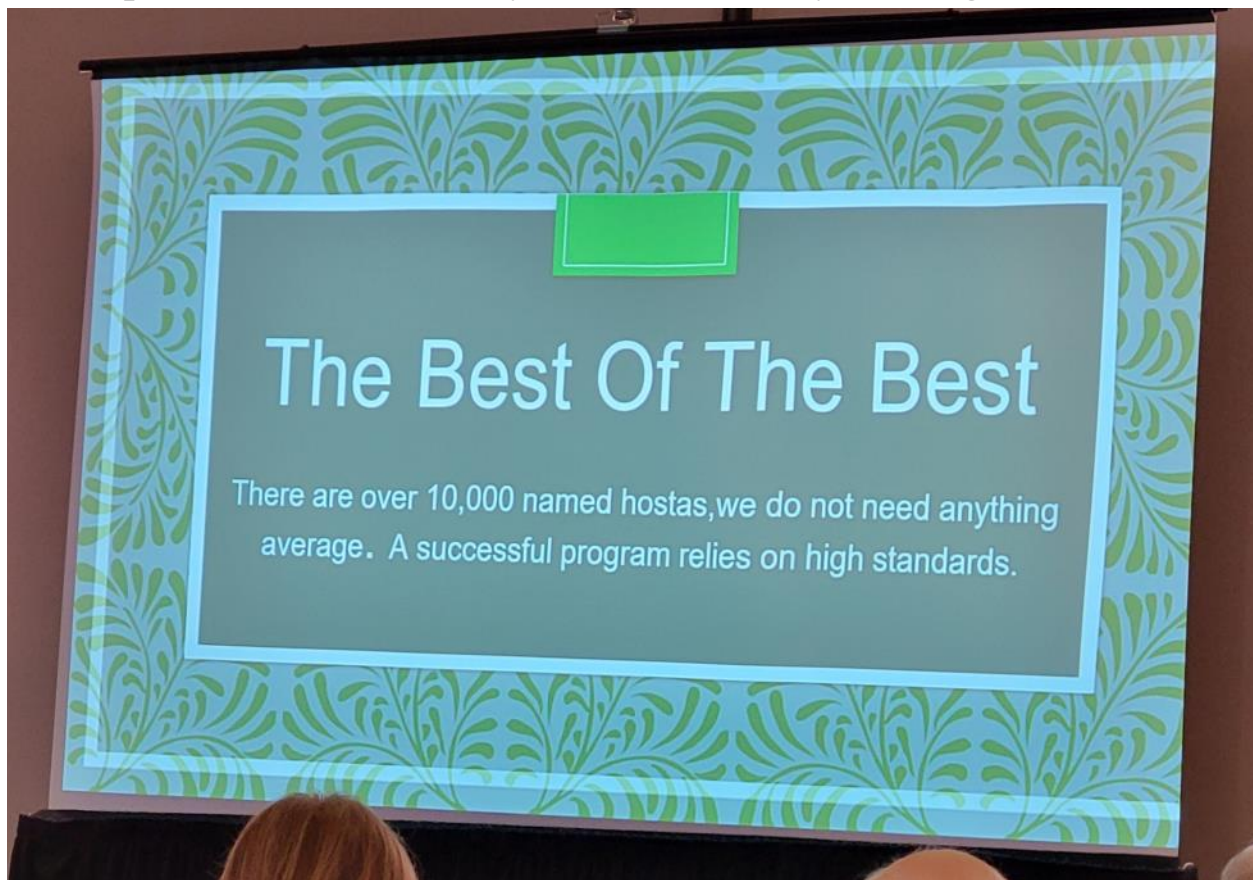


*Gary with Joyce*



*Jack tall one.*

Next up was Phil Timm on why YOU should be hybridizing!



- Seedlings germinate at a temperature between 70 - 75 degrees.
- Shop lights work great as a light source.

- The basic necessities:

- Plant labels
- #2 pencil
- Plastic cups with holes in the bottom
- Storage containers
- Potting mix
- Algaecide
- Tomato plant food
- Empty gallon milk jug



- Do not let temperature exceed 90 degrees and do not let seeds dry out once planted. Hosta seeds do not need any kind of stratification.

## Maci seedlings

Add text description



Add text description



After a presentation on the summer convention, Bob Solberg's ' Full Spectrum Hostas, Filling Out the Rainbow', takes us through how hostas get their coloring. Then follows with hybridizing breakthroughs on color in hosta leaves and flowers.

Hostas are green plants!

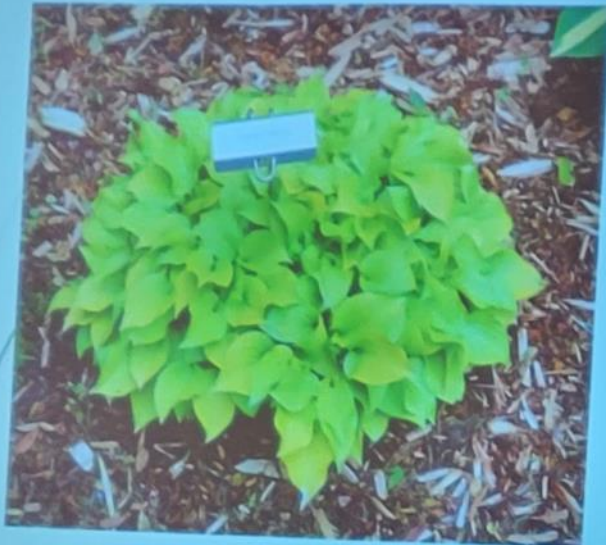
It's easiest being green.

Natural color changes


- White in your garage
- Yellow in fall
- Purple persistent!
- Brown in winter



Yellow hostas are half broken hostas



'Shiny Penny'



'Lemon Kiss'



# 'Granny's Goosebumps'



## Hybridizing Tips, what's next?

- Change leaf shapes
- Make the habit very upright
- Change the color of the veins
- Produce pigment between the veins
- Change the scape color
- Change size



Or maybe blue flowers

After a brief break and final fierce bidding in the silent auction, Dave Wanninger enthusiastically talked about his favorite nut trees.



## Nuts about Nuts!

Dave Wanninger  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
Milwaukee County Parks  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Our last speaker, Mark Zilis, shared with us the story of Pete and Jean Ruh, starting with the start of Sunny Brook Farms, when his father Dr. Harold O. Ruh purchased 170 acres in 1928.





Pete registered 445 hostas, including 165 with his wife Jean (she also registered two without him). Only 58 were his own originations. The others were for 103 individuals, 12 nurseries, and 1 botanical garden, as well as in the name of three countries and 1 continent. Many of the people were deceased or inactive in the AHS and he wanted to make sure that they received credit for their plants.

In 2001, Pete and Jean set up a conservation easement on their property with Chagrin River Land Conservancy (now known as Western Reserve Land Conservancy) to protect their family lands for generations to come. The Conservancy purchased the land, then according to the Ruhs' wishes, sold 72 acres to Geauga Park District to be used as a public park, now known as the Sunnybrook Preserve.

Sunnybrook Preserve was made possible because of the foresight and dedication to conservation displayed by Harold & Edith Ruh and Frank & Minna Ferris.

Because they each had the persistence and conviction to protect the natural resources entrusted to them, these lands are now available for many to enjoy for generations to come.

Dedicated on May 16, 2009

# SAVE THE DATES!

## Countdown to Winnebago Haho



### **Winnebago Haho Wisconsin Hostality**

### **2024 MRHS Convention**

**July 11-13, 2024  
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN**

**Hosted by MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY  
Organized by Glenn Herold and Pat Gwidt**

**No added fees for payment by credit card.**

[Watch Promotional Video on the website](#)

or

[Watch Promotional Video on FaceBook](#)

*Information will be updated as additional details become available.*

*Registration will open around Dec. 15th. Check the website for details.*

Convention website: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/WINNEBAGO%20HAHO/WinnebagoHaho.shtml>

**2024 MRHS REGIONAL CONVENTION**

**REGISTRATION FORM – Winnebago Haha**



July 11-13, 2024 – Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
 Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 625 W. Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac, WI  
 Make your hotel reservations by calling (920)638-4175 or use the link at the  
 MRHS convention website: [midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org)  
 Remember to request the special 2024 MRHS Room Rate  
 (\$139 per night – includes breakfast and free drink voucher)

**REGISTRATION DETAILS** *(Please print clearly - one attendee per form)*

Name:	Preferred Name on Badge:
Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
Phone:	Email:

*\*Please see cancellation policy at [midwesthostasociety.org](http://midwesthostasociety.org)*

EARLY REGISTRATION if received by 3/15/24 (bonus gift plant)	\$ 149	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>
STANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 6/15/24	\$ 149	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>
LATE REGISTRATION received after 6/15/24	\$ 169	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>
MEALS ONLY (companion or vendors)- Friday lunch buffet, Fri & Sat Banquets only	\$ 96	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>

Optional Thursday night welcome event – LaClare Family Creamery	\$ 35 /person	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>Friday Banquet Meal Choice:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin  <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye  <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.)                 </td> <td> <b>Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak  <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast  <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)                 </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Friday Banquet Meal Choice:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.)	<b>Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	➔	\$ <input type="text"/>
<b>Friday Banquet Meal Choice:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Panko Crusted Walleye <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (veg.)	<b>Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. Sirloin Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Stir Fry (veg.)				

Make Check Payable to: 2024 MRHS Convention  
 MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Barry Ankney 1104 Oxford Court, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5249

<b>Hosta Show:</b> Please check if you wish to <input type="checkbox"/> Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk Plan # ____ entries in the Hosta Leaf Show <b>Seedling Competition:</b> Plan # ____ entries in Seedling Competition Rules & Regulations available at MIDWESTHOSTASOCIETY.ORG	<b>Friday night auction</b> I plan to donate ____ items for the auction.
	<b>Saturday Gardens tour ride sharing transportation:</b> I can provide transport for ____ persons. I will need transport for ____ persons.

## Upcoming Hosta Society Conventions

### Midwest Hosta Society

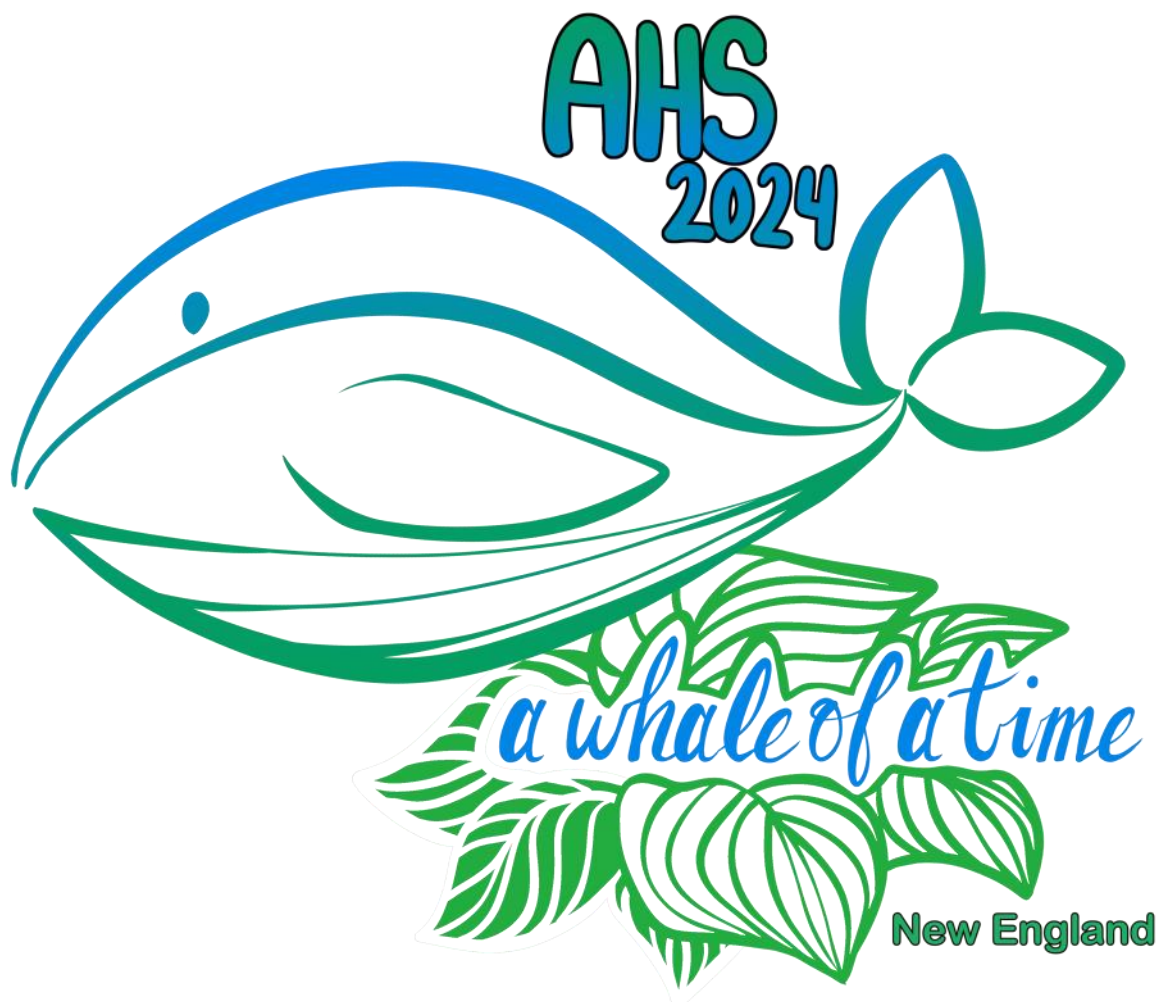
2024 Fond du Lac, WI, July 11-13

2025 Joint convention 'Double Feature' hosted by Central Illinois Hosta Society,  
Tentatively June 5-7

### American Hosta Society

2024 Marlborough, MA, June 19-22

2025 Joint convention 'Double Feature' hosted by Central Illinois Hosta Society,  
Tentatively June 5-7



# American Hosta Society

## 2024 National Convention



**June 18th - 22nd**  
**Marlborough, Massachusetts**

### JOIN US in New England for **A WHALE of a TIME**

Garden Tours ~ Accredited Hosta Show  
New England Clambake/BBQ ~ Vendors  
New England Sport and Seedling Competition  
Speakers ~ Workshops ~ Judges Bootcamp  
Optional "Experience Boston" Day  
Taste of New England Welcome Reception



**Registration information at**  
**[www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)**

**By MAIL -** Fill out form on back and return  
with your payment

**Early Registration Deadline 1/31/24**

**Registration Deadline 4/30/24**

**Late Registration Deadline 6/8/24**



### **Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel**

181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, MA 01752

**(508) 460-0700**

Ask for American Hosta Society 2024 room rate

For more information and schedule of events,  
please visit [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)

**2024 AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY  
NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

**June 18-22, 2024 - Marlborough, Massachusetts**

**Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel**

181 Boston Post Road W - Marlborough, MA 01752

Make your hotel reservations by calling (508) 460-0700 or use the link at the

AHS convention website: [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)

Remember to request the special AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY 2024 Room Rate

\$139/night (includes full buffet breakfast in Zachary's Restaurant)



**REGISTRATION DETAILS** *(Please print clearly - one attendee per form)*

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Preferred Name on Badge:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City, State, Zip Code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>

*\*Please see cancellation policy at [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)*

<b>EARLY REGISTRATION</b> if received by 1/31/24	\$ 240	\$
<b>STANDARD REGISTRATION</b> if received by 4/30/24	\$ 255	\$
<b>LATE REGISTRATION</b> received after 5/1/24 before 6/8/24	\$ 275	\$
<b>MEALS ONLY</b> (companion)- Thursday Picnic, Friday Buffet & Saturday Banquets only	\$ 175	\$
<b>GARDEN TOUR BUS</b> includes bus fee and box lunches for Friday and Saturday garden tours - <i>*select lunch choice below</i>	\$150	\$

*\* Select ONE Box Lunch per day (Tour Bus riders ONLY) - lunch on your own for self drive attendees*

<b>Friday</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deli Turkey Sandwich	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoked BBQ Chicken Sandwich	<input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean Vege Sandwich
<b>Saturday</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bacon Turkey Sandwich	<input type="checkbox"/> Steak & Arugula Sandwich	<input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean Vege Sandwich

*\* Optional Wednesday Tour (choose only ONE)*

<b>WHALE WATCH/BOSTON</b> (7:30am-5:30 pm) inc. transportation	\$ 126 /person	\$
<b>BOSTON/DUCK BOAT TOUR</b> (7:30am-5:30pm) inc. transportation	\$ 108 /person	\$

<b>Thursday Clambake Meal Choice:</b>	<b>Saturday Banquet Meal Choice:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lobster (1 1/4 lb)	<input type="checkbox"/> Garlic Parm Chicken
<input type="checkbox"/> Steak (10 oz sirloin)	<input type="checkbox"/> New England Scrod
<input type="checkbox"/> BBQ Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Kabobs

**TOTAL DUE** \$

**MAIL PAYMENT TO: Sandie Markland  
PO Box 1573, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948**

**Check Payable to: 2024 AHS Convention**

*\* Please let us know about any special dietary needs ASAP*

**Pay by Credit Card** - will send an invoice to your email address for Total Due PLUS 5% convenience fee

**Hosta Show:** Please check if you wish to

Judge       Clerk

Plan # \_\_\_\_\_ entries in the Hosta Leaf Show

Plan # \_\_\_\_\_ entries in New England Seedling & Sport Competition

Rules & Regulations available at [www.hostaconvention.org](http://www.hostaconvention.org)

**Judges Bootcamp** (Tuesday, June 18): Please check if you plan to attend

Judges Clinic I (1-5 PM)       Judges Clinic II (6-8 PM)

Need Judges Handbook (\$10 payable at Clinic)

I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER       YES       NO



# MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## Email

**December 15, 2023**

On December 15, 2023 President Rob Mortko called for an email meeting to approve the proposed MRHS budget for 2024 that was prepared by Treasurer Mona Keehn as required by the bylaws change adopted at the July 2023 Convention. The proposed budget differed from past annual budgets in that all 2024 convention revenue and expenditures would flow through MRHS since we do not have a sponsoring local society. Rob invited questions and comments from the board members.

Meeting participants included Rob Mortko, Mike Kraus, Barry Ankney, Dave Collura, Kay Dye, Mary Schwartzbauer, Mona Keehn, Phil Timm and Mary Vertz.

Vice President Mike Kraus asked several questions about the 2024 convention budget and Rob obtained responses and clarifications from convention co-chair Glenn Herold. After Rob modified the budget to reflect a couple of changes there was no further discussion. Barry Ankney made a motion to approve the budget and it was seconded by Mary Vertz. Rob called for a vote and the budget was approved by all of the board members who cast votes on December 18, 2023. Dave Collura, Kay Dye and Phil Timm did not vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Rekoske, Secretary

## Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2024

Brookfield WI

The board met the evening before the MRHS Winter Symposium. President Rob Mortko, Vice President Mike Kraus, Immediate Past President Mary Schwartzbauer, Treasurer Mona Keehn, Membership Chair Dave Collura, Webmaster Barry Ankney, Newsletter Editor Mary Vertz, Region V AHS Representative Kay Dye, Member-at-Large Phil Timm and Secretary Mark Rekoske were all in attendance. President Mortko called the meeting to order at about 6:10 p.m.

Mortko opened by recalling the December e-meeting where we approved the society's 2024 budget. He asked for a treasurer's report and Keehn responded that there is no new news to report. The savings account balance is \$57249 and the checking account balance is \$21085. There were no questions or discussion about the state of our finances.

Collura provided a membership report. He noted that there are currently 387 members, including 84 who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2024. This is up a bit from the recent past. Dave noted that there were 18 new members registered at last year's Master Gardeners convention in Kansas City thanks to the efforts of Barry Ankney. It is unknown how many of these new members will renew. Dave asked the board whether we should continue to give a new member package to each person granted a complimentary membership at our conventions. The \$10 voucher cost is absorbed by our participating vendors so the consensus was to continue the practice.

The board also reviewed the practice of granting a complimentary one-year membership or a one-year extension of membership to all convention attendees. Board members agreed that the complimentary memberships were a good stimulus for convention attendance. The board voted unanimously to continue the complimentary memberships.

Mary Vertz reminded the board to submit all articles for the spring newsletter by March 15.

Mortko began a discussion of the Winter Symposium financials. He recalled that he has been a proponent of operating the symposium as a break-even event. This year hotel costs are up a bit and in order to maintain the registration unchanged we had budgeted for an expected attendance of 110. Today, only 98 registrations have been received so far and the added cost of including Marco Fransen results in a projected shortfall of about \$400. However, Rob reported that the silent auction managed by Rob James will likely save us from a loss. Rob James has modified the auction to rely on living seedlings from members and plants donated from vendors to be shipped in spring to provide the bulk of the revenue. James has done a terrific job of getting donations and projects revenue from the silent auction of about \$1500.

Despite substantial publicity, reminders, the low registration fee and the added draw of speaker Marco Fransen, it appears our annual attendance may be capped at about 100. On the bright side, this is almost one-third of the MRHS membership and can be regarded as a great turnout compared to other organizations. There was also some discussion of how far members will travel for a one-day meeting. There has probably been some falloff in attendance from the Chicago area since moving the meeting to Brookfield, but there is likely an increase in attendance by Wisconsin members. We have some attendees from the Great Lakes region, likely due to the draw of Marco Fransen.

Mortko announced that the Wisconsin Hosta Society had volunteered to fund the Jack Barta Scholarship this year. Last year, after the death of Jack Barta, the Shades of Green Hosta Society made a donation to honor Jack for his many contributions to MRHS by funding a scholarship. A winner will be selected and announced by Mortko tomorrow using a random number generator. Perhaps other local societies will sponsor future scholarships.

Mortko turned to an update on the 2024 Convention in Fond du Lac. The convention is on! Recently, the hotel contract was finalized. Committee chairs are all in place and planning is ongoing. The lack of “boots on the ground”, since no local society is sponsoring the convention, will re-

quire help from more remote volunteers. Perhaps there are members in the Wisconsin Hosta Society who can step in to help.

The Central Illinois Hosta Society, based in Peoria, will host a combined AHS/MRHS convention in 2025. The theme will be “Double Feature” and information on the dates and venue can be found on the AHS and MRHS websites. AHS and MRHS have reached an agreement to share auction revenue and expenses. Any shortfall will be equally shared by the AHS and MRHS. The Paradise hotel, the same venue used at the 2018 MRHS Convention will be convention hotel. Barry Ankney described some of the preparatory activities. Ankney requested a loan of \$2000 from MRHS to the Peoria group to offset some of their upfront costs. He reported that AHS has already advanced a \$2000 loan. The board voted unanimously to make a \$2000 loan to the Central Illinois Hosta Society.

Mortko then turned to a discussion of the process used to select recipients of the DeEtta Montgomery Award and the difficulties that ensue when a potential recipient is a member of the board. Rob suggested we consider a procedure similar to that employed by the AHS. He recommended that we create a committee to solicit nominations for the award. The committee would be tasked to evaluate the nominations and make a selection. The committee would consist of the MRHS immediate past president and the two most recent Montgomery Award winners. The committee would solicit the MRHS membership for nominations which should make members feel more engaged in the process. All agreed with Rob’s recommendation and the board voted to go forward with the creation of a selection committee.

When there was no other new business presented the meeting was adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Rekoske, Secretary

## MRHS Treasurer's Report 2024

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

Last updated 3/11/24			
Category	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
Membership Dues	1,332.30	1,000.00	1,000.00
Convention	4,576.78	2,500.00	28,010.00
Income-Interest	85.66	10.00	60.00
Winter Symposium	6,243.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Seed/Plant Auction	553.00	500.00	500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,790.74</b>	<b>10,010.00</b>	<b>35,570.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>			
Award-Montgomery	25.98	100.00	0.00
Grants	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Liability Insurance	541.00	450.00	550.00
Membership Expense		200.00	
Miscellaneous	80.02	700.00	200.00
Newsletter	538.49	750.00	0.00
Internet Site		0.00	0.00
Zoom Meetings		0.00	0.00
Convention	2,444.41	0.00	21,202.00
Winter Symposium	6,186.75	6,500.00	6,500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,416.65</b>	<b>9,900.00</b>	<b>29,652.00</b>
<b>Net Totals</b>	<b>2,374.09</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>5,918.00</b>

<b>Account Balances: Current</b>	
Checking	26,754.11
Savings	57,149.46
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>68,189.13</b>

## 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:  
Mike Kraus  
MRHS Vice-President  
Mike Kraus  
6311 Carrie Ct.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Educational Fund  
September 18, 2015

Or email application to Mike at:  
[kraus6311@comcast.net](mailto:kraus6311@comcast.net)

## 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, PO Box 7407, Villa Park, IL 60181-7407. 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 Fall Newsletter. Contact Mary Vertz (920) 336-7678 or [mavertyz@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mavertyz@gmail.com)



*H. 'Woolly Mammoth'*

<b>Full Color Ads:</b>			
<b>Size</b>	<b>Single Issue</b>	<b>Full Year</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
Full page	\$275	\$475	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	175	300	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	90	155	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	45	80	3½" x 2"
<b>Black &amp; White Ads:</b>			
<b>Size</b>	<b>Single Issue</b>	<b>Full Year</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
Full page	\$100	\$175	6½" x 9½"
1/2 page	55	95	6½" x 4½"
1/4 page	40	70	3½" x 4½"
1/8 page	30	50	3½" x 2"





As you dream of relaxing in the shade under your favorite shade tree, enjoying some music, turn your thoughts to summertime fun at **"Winnebago HaHo, Wisconsin Hostality"** in Fond du Lac, WI.

**SEE YOU THERE!**

### **MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY**

Our Regional Society is composed of over 300 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 email newsletter, hold an annual convention each summer, and hold a one day Conference either in fall or February. 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

Next summer's convention **"Winnebago HaHo, Wisconsin Hostality"** is being organized by Glenn Herold and Pat Gwidt in Fond du Lac, WI. 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!