

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 110

NOVEMBER 2019

2019/2020 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Dec 8, Holiday Party, Lombard**
- **Feb 1, 2020, MRHS Winter Hosta Symposium in Brookfield/ Milwaukee, WI**
- **March 29, 2020 Spring Potluck, at Cantigny Park, Wheaton**
- **June 10-13 2020 AHS Convention, Minneapolis, MN**



2020 Hosta of the Year

H. 'Dancing Queen' emerges bright yellow and remains yellow all season long. The large leaves have a prominent pie crust edge, adding even more pizzazz to this colorful hosta. In mid to late summer, the foliage lightens to soft yellow and the clump is topped with pale lavender flowers. This one is a must-have!

Pic & description from Walters Gardens, Inc.

President's Letter

Another successful year is quickly coming to a close. With all of the rain we had this Spring, 2019 was a great year for growing hostas. The only thing that grew better than my hostas were all of the weeds and Buckthorn saplings. But, we take the good with the bad. So, let's focus on the good.

NIHS had another full year of activities: from the Spring and Fall Symposiums to the garden walks, the Hosta Leaf Display at the Chicago Botanic Garden, our potluck meetings, the annual bus tour, the dedication of the AHS National Display Garden at Cantigny and an extremely successful Auction fundraiser. I want to thank our NIHS Board Members for their hard work in organizing these events for your benefit. Our National Display Garden at Cantigny looked better than ever this year. A big thank you to Barbara King and her team of volunteers as well as the Cantigny staff that supports us in so many ways.

Our 2019 Holiday Party is December 8th in Lombard hosted by Arlene and Bruce Solyom. Please make plans to attend and visit with your hosta friends and share your stories of 2019 and plans for 2020. See the following article for details.

Looking forward to 2020 we will start the year on February 1st with the

Continued next page



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President's Letter *continued*

MRHS Winter Hosta Symposium at the Milwaukee/ Brookfield Sheraton. The 2019 event was held in Milwaukee for the first time and it was a huge success. I strongly suggest you consider attending. The speakers were outstanding and it was a nice break from the winter doldrums to begin thinking about our upcoming plans for the growing season. See page 3 for details.

NIHS will have a very busy year in 2020. Along with our normal activities, we are hosting the MRHS convention in Lisle at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel July 16 – 18. We have a great lineup of gardens and speakers. Plan to attend and also to volunteer. Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and help make the Convention a success.

I hope November is not an indication of how our Winter will be this year. Stay warm, enjoy the upcoming Holidays and we look forward to seeing you at this year's NIHS Holiday Party in Lombard.

Hosta-la-vista,

Miké Kraus

Pic by June Vandervest



Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanical Gardens



Open House and Hosta Walk
June 7-8-9

Artisan Market—September 7

Nursery Open: April 10 – October 10
Princeton, Illinois (815) 659-3282

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Our Newest NIHS Board Member

Gary Blausler, Treasurer

Gary taught high school prior to entering the educational publishing business and retired in 2009. He & Becki have lived in Illinois for 40 years and have two adult daughters. Their oldest lives in the UK, resulting in trips annually to visit with her family, including two grandsons. Their youngest daughter lives in Carol Stream, not quite as far to travel. "I inherited hostas when we bought our home on a wooded lot in Batavia. Jim and Barbara King later informed me there were more than two varieties of hostas, and the saga began. I have truly enjoyed getting to know, and learning from, my colleagues in the NIHS and in time spent at Cantigny." Gary pictured left.

Holiday Potluck Party - Friends, Food & Fun

Sunday Dec. 8, 1:00pm Lombard

Our much anticipated annual NIHS Holiday Party is rapidly approaching on **Sunday Dec 8**. Plan to join in the fun! Festivities will begin at **1:00 pm** hosted by Arlene & Bruce Solyom in Lombard. Arlene & Bruce have hosted previously at their Trinity Lutheran Church with lots of room to mingle. Do plan to come and enjoy the company of NIHS friends and a wonderful meal in the holiday surroundings.

Excellent NIHS cooks always contribute remarkable food that never disappoints. Everyone who comes should bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. The main dish and tableware will be provided. **Please contact Arlene ASAP at 630-620-0599 or text her at 630-715-7764** that you are coming and which dish you will bring.



Please extend your holiday spirit by bringing a bag of non-perishable food for donation to the local Food Pantry.

PLEASE COME – LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

DIRECTIONS: Trinity Lutheran Church is at 1165 South Westmore-Meyers Road, Lombard, at the northeast corner of the intersection with Route 38, Roosevelt Road. To get there from I-88, the East-West Tollway, get off at the Highland Avenue exit and go north to Route 38, then east (right) to Westmore-Meyers Road. Turn left and proceed to the parking lot on the north side of the church, which will be on your right. Enter the church building from the parking lot.

From I-355, get off at the Route 38-Roosevelt Road exit and go east on Route 38 to Westmore – Meyers Road. Turn left and proceed as above.



Enjoy the Winter Hosta Symposium Jan 31 & Feb 1

The Midwest Regional Society will once again hold its **Winter Hosta Symposium** in Milwaukee, WI, at the Brookfield Sheraton on January 31 and February 1st. Early arrivers can come in and register after 4:00 PM on Friday, January 31st. Supper is on your own with well over 20 restaurants to choose from within walking distance at the Brookfield Mall area. The Symposium will be Saturday from 8:30AM until 4:30 PM. The cost is \$59.00 and includes the Friday night hostality suite and six speakers, a coffee break and a buffet luncheon on Saturday.

Hostality will be the evening's venue and the chatting can extend late into the evening, The hostality suite will have beverages (regular and alcoholic) and snacks. Hotel costs are \$105.00 for one and \$10.00 for each additional. This includes a buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant on Saturday morning. To make a reservation call the Sheraton at 262-364-1100 and use the code WHT or Winter Hosta Symposium 2020 for your discounted price. Consider staying a second night and enjoy more chit-chat.

Our six speakers will be **Bob Solberg** "Hostas, Back to the Basics"; **Michael Hull** "Mychorrizae and the Root"; **Jeff Moore** "Hands on Hybridizing"; **Mark Zilis** "Hostas: the Best, the Worst"; **Glenn Herold** "Trees and Shrubs for the Hosta Garden"; and **Michael Greanya** "Rock Garden Plants and their Adaptability to the Hosta Garden".

Weather is always better in Milwaukee in February and you can get your hosta "fix" by talking with other hostaphiles and enjoying our speakers. Come join us for hosta chit-chat.

To register visit <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>



Find & name these hostas pictured elsewhere in this newsletter.



2020 CONVENTION NEWS!

You'll Want To Be There

By Barbara King



The MRHS 2020 Convention Committee is making good progress planning the various events that will be part of next year's eagerly anticipated event. Since our last report, we have secured the following:

- ◆ The keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet
- ◆ Speakers at two seminars on Friday and one on Saturday
- ◆ About one-third of the volunteers we will need to help at convention events
- ◆ Completion of the registration form, which will be posted on the MRHS website at the beginning of the year so that convention-goers are able to register online with a credit card if they wish.
- ◆ Addition of Midwest Groundcovers as a destination that includes a presentation and tour of their display gardens during the convention's Friday garden tour.

We continue to seek volunteers to help at various convention events and are preparing detailed "job descriptions" to help match the interests of potential volunteers with what needs to be done. We will need many of you to help in the tour gardens and at activities in the hotel. If you would like to be a convention volunteer, or you have questions, contact Barbara King at bhk430@att.net.

Details about these and other convention features will be on the MRHS 2020 Convention website by January 1. Also, we plan to have an information table at the Winter Hosta Symposium in Milwaukee on February 1.

Convention Committee Co-Chairs Mike Kraus and Barbara King want to thank all the committee members who are working hard to plan this event:

- Barry Ankney – Webmaster; general assistance
- Ron Asselborn – Registration
- Judi Asselborn – Hospitality
- Lou Horton – Welcome pack; general assistance
- Mary Ann Metz – Hosta Leaf Show
- Mark Rekoske – Vendors
- Floyd Rogers – Program booklet; tee shirts
- June Vandervest - Table decorations; general assistance

Saturday Banquet at 2013 MRHS Convention hosted by NIHS in Lisle.



THE CANTIGNY PARK HOSTA GARDEN: 2019 IN BRIEF

By Barbara King



The Cantigny Park Hosta Garden is ready for its long winter nap after NIHS volunteers “tucked it in” at their last workday on November 5. It has been a busy year. Our volunteers began their season on April 30, a cold damp day during which they slogged through mud to remove scilla, cut back daffodils, and clean up the debris left during a long winter. See pic left.

Pics by June Vandervest (above) & Diane Barrowman, (below).

Two weeks later, on May 14, the garden was ready for mulch, and at the end of the workday, it looked like this:

On July 12, nearly three years after it was designated an AHS National Hosta Display Garden, a dedication ceremony made it official. About 50 members, Cantigny staff, and visitors came to take part, and speaker Mark Zilis shared his enthusiasm for hostas.

Throughout the year, many groups and individuals came to tour the garden and enjoy its beauty. Kudos to the 23 NIHS volunteers who worked diligently throughout 2019 to keep it looking its best. In addition to maintenance chores and watering, they added 25 hostas to the garden’s collection. After that “long winter nap,” the process will start again next April.



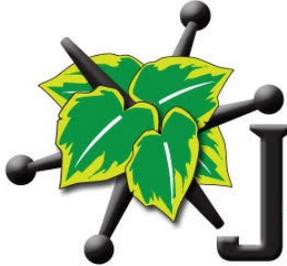
HOSTAS

2020
MRHS
Convention
CHICAGO STYLE

Coming July 16 - 18, 2020 in Lisle
Plan to attend and volunteer!

HOSTAS

2020
MRHS
Convention
CHICAGO STYLE


JACK'S
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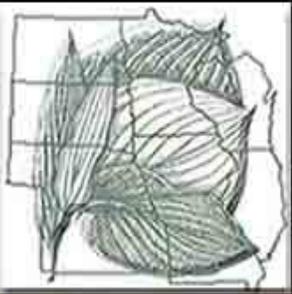
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The Midwest Regional Hosta Society
<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>

DAVE'S VIEW

- Buds & Bugs -

By Dave Trollope



*Pics by
Dave
Trollope*

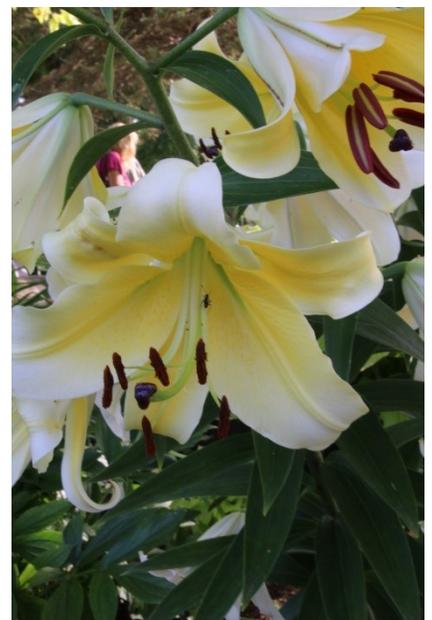


As we enter the cold and snowy days of winter, its nice to reflect back on the warmth and color of summer! These photos were taken on the annual NIHS bus trip back in July - join us next year! Shout out to nature's helpers too - what would we do without them?

Cheers!

Dave

Editor's Note : look carefully for the bug(s) in each photo.



Late Fall and Winter Foliar Nematode Control

By Andy Campbell

Recently, I mentioned to hosta friends that for several years I have used hot water to treat our hostas for foliar nematodes (FN). These folks convinced me to share my experiences with you. Although I am not a scientist, I am offering my experiences rooted in hosta science provided by several authorities.

If you know or think you may have a foliar nematode problem, you can treat the problem in late fall and winter. I suggest a two-step approach to controlling FN: garden clean up and hot water drench.

The American Hosta Society completed a two-year study on foliar nematodes in 2016, including their life cycle and testing methods of control. Tom Micheletti wrote an article with a summary of the study which was in our JULY 2016 newsletter. I will be quoting from Tom's article. The full study report by Dr. Parwinder Grewal is still available for AHS members at their website, www.hosta.org. A final report was also included in the AHS publication, The Hosta Journal, 2016 Volume 47, # 2.

Quoting from Tom, "They found that foliar nematodes do not overwinter as eggs in the soil or plant tissue. They overwinter as juveniles or adults in below-ground hosta tissue and dead leaves. A good reason to clean the dead leaves from your garden each fall! In the spring when temperatures and moisture are right they migrate up the petioles of hosta leaves and enter the openings of the leaves."



Foliar nematode damage.
Missouri Botanical Garden



This information on the FN life cycle suggests a two-step approach for FN control in late fall and winter:

1. removing dead hosta leaves from your property and
2. treating soil and below-ground plant tissue.

Removing Dead Hosta Leaves

Quoting from Cindy Deutekom in the Fall-November 2105 AHS E-Newsletter: "Studies have shown that the nematodes remain in the leaves that fall to the ground in a desiccated state. Thus, it is important to clean up hosta leaves in the fall. These leaves should not be composted. The dehydrated nematodes can revive when exposed to moisture in your compost pile! Fall cleanup will greatly decrease foliar nematodes next year, as well as slugs and fungal infections."

If you did not complete cleanup in the fall before snow covered your hostas, look for any opportunity to complete this task before spring or ASAP. Dead leaves can be blown around your property and infect other plants in the spring.

Treating Soil and Below Ground Plant Hosta Tissue

In his final report, Dr. Parwinder states: "Foliar nematodes overwinter in the soil or plant parts including

Continued next page

Late Fall and Winter Foliar Nematode Control

continued

rhizomes, bulbs and buds, but generally not in the roots. Foliar nematodes also differ from other plant-parasitic nematodes as they can also feed on fungi.”

The AHS study tested many methods and chemicals for controlling FN. One of the most effective and least expensive was **Boiling Water**.

Quoting again from the final report:

“In an earlier experiment in Ohio, we found that boiling water (100 C) applied once a month for 3 consecutive months (April, May, June) to hosta crown/buds significantly reduced the number of nematode infected leaves and the severity of nematode infections relative to the control 150 days after treatment. **This boiling water treatment resulted in 67% reduction in nematode population in hosta leaves and up to 98% reduction in nematode population in the soil over the untreated control at 150 days after treatment. We believe that boiling water treatment of dormant hosta leaves/buds in the ground before April may have been even more effective.**

The hot water method used for treating hosta plants in the ground is drenching.”

I discussed the final report results with Tom Micheletti and I was encouraged with the hot water test results. I had concerns about when to treat and how much hot water to use. Another concern - would the treated plants survive? Tom mentioned that there had been successful treatment of complete plants by emersion in hot water followed by cold water and replanting. Yes, plants could survive a hot water treatment.

How much hot water to use: This became subjective with 3-5 gallons as a starting point. The water must be hot enough to kill the nematode but not the plant. Also, the amount and temperature of the hot water depends on the soil temperature and the plant size area treated.



In March 2107 I tried my first treatment and I have used it in 2018 and 2019.

When: I treat after the coldest winter temperatures have passed but before the soil starts to thaw late - Feb/ early March. The colder the soil, the more hot water is required. **I use hot water to kill nematodes and cold weather/cold soil to cool the plant.** John Van Ostrand reports that he uses a hot water treatment in late fall with success.

How: I start with hot water from the faucet. The recommend temperature for the hot water tank is 120 F. Caution - Scalding may occur within five (5) seconds with temperatures at 135 F or higher! Starting with hot water reduces the time required to bring the water to boiling temperature of 212 F. For boiling water I use several containers on a gas stove and also an electric appliance. Multiple boiling sources allows for an effective treatment with small time interruptions.

I use a metal watering can with a wide top opening and a shower nozzle to drench the hostas and the immediately-surrounding soil. It seems to work for thawing the soil and drenching the area being treated.

My Results: The plants treated have survived and seem to be as healthy as surrounding plants. The number of observed leaves infected with FN has declined each year. This year several plants showed no infection while all plants have had a significant reduction in visible infected leaves. I consider this hot water treatment program a success in our garden.

Action Auction August 2019



Action Auction August 2019
continued

Pics by Ron Asselborn





Join the **American Hosta Society** and receive **The Hosta Journal** mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the **Members Only** section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions.

Membership Rates for one year:

Individual \$30

Family \$34

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

- *Keith & Linda Benson, Batavia*
- *Patti Brotz, Bartlett*
- *Jane Christman, Oak Brook*
- *Janice Duncan, Rockford*
- *Renee Mielzynski, Fox River Grove*
- *Walt & E.J. Rebman, Rockford*
- *Marion Richardson & Rosemarie Tonym, McHenry*
- *Barbara Taylor, Esmond*
- *Ellen Weisseg, Hinsdale*
- *Steve & Helene Zasadny, Lemont*



Join the NIHS by contacting Stevie Meginness, Membership Secretary, 84 Dunham Place, St. Charles, IL 60174 with your check for \$20. Please include your name (s), address, phone #, and current email address.

Family membership dues of \$20 for 2 years include email versions of 5 newsletters.

Email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com. Call Stevie at 630-377-9306. Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and visit us on Facebook.



Annual Meeting & Fall Potluck
Review



Gorgeous weather, great grub, plus old & new friends made for a marvelous Annual Meeting. We elected a slate of officers, approved a budget for next year, and really loved those desserts.



Annual Meeting & Fall Potluck
Review continued



Pics by Ron Asselborn



Fall - Going for the Gold

by June Vandervest

Although the Fall of 2019 was very short lived, we had a little time to enjoy Mother Nature painting the green hostas to gold. You don't even have to be a Packer fan to enjoy the green and gold medley. If your garden design incorporates several Hosta leaf color variations, once the cool evening temperatures hit, a whole new color palette may surprise you.



Right lower center is H. 'Sun Power' – gold that stays gold, to the right of it is H. 'Candy Hearts', summer green, now golden.



Blink twice and your beautiful scene becomes one of buried gold beneath the snow.

Highlights from the Fall Symposium

Oct 13th @ Cantigny



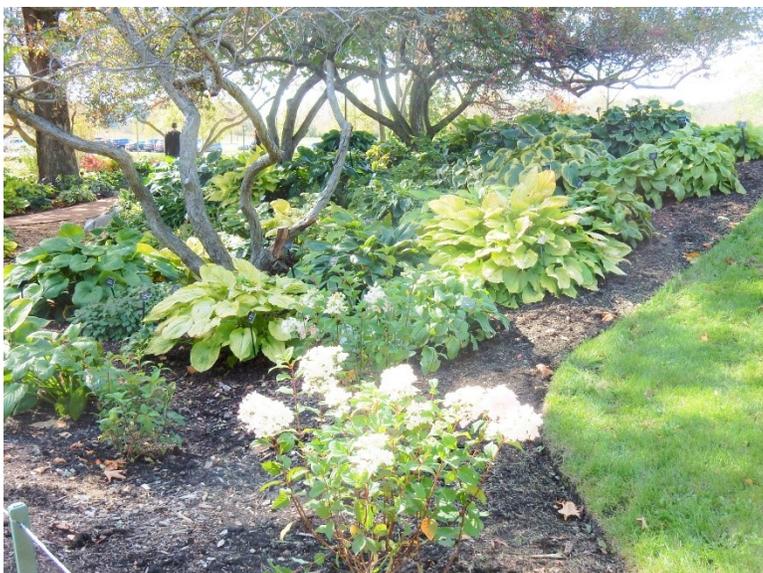
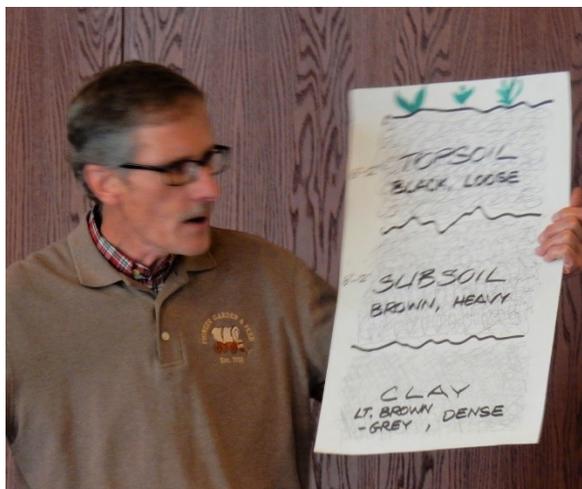
A great crowd of hostaphiles were delighted to experience Bill Karges' (brown sweater) hands-on demonstrations of good soil & how to get it. Bill used a myriad of physical examples to help the audience see and experience how to create "Success with your soil." The venue at Cantigny provided an opportunity to enjoy the fall decorations and the gorgeous hosta garden. Janet Simpson was a great organizer.



Pics by Ron Asselborn & Janet Simpson



Highlights from the Fall Symposium
continued



Grow Your Hostas as Per Species Habits

By Larry Tucker

Montreal's Reggie Millette delivered a most instructive program to the Mid South Hosta Society. Understanding hosta parentage is essential if you want those plants to reach their maximum potential. After all, close to 9,000 different cultivars have been created over the years, and a great many of those hostas are still available in today's market. For one reason or another, certain hostas don't grow well in the South. Some that we can grow well don't like other regions. That's where knowledge about species comes in handy. There's no sense in buying hostas that won't adapt to our climate or planting cultivars that demand special care to survive. Unless, of course, you don't mind adding annuals to your perennial garden.

Depending upon which expert you trust, there are about a dozen or more species in the hosta world – perhaps as many as four dozen if you count those that have vanished or those that are little used for hybridizing. Millette, who concentrated on 13 species featured in French and English versions of his book, enlightened MSHS about their culture and their offspring:

Hosta plantaginea – Blooms in August, needs lots of sun and late-season water to bloom, has fragrant flowers. Seedlings and crosses have produced many popular cultivars, such as 'Aphrodite' (pictured on page 6), 'Honeybells', 'Royal Standard', 'Sugar and Cream', 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Guacamole', 'Stained Glass', 'Cathedral Windows' and 'So Sweet'.

Hosta montana – Large or very large, drought-tolerant, can withstand both dry periods and flooding, grows better in cooler climates. Popular cultivars are montana 'Aureomarginata', 'On Stage', 'Frosted Jade', 'King Michael', 'Lakeside Cha Cha' and 'Niagara Falls'. (Note: Crosses between montana and sieboldiana types



*Hosta 'Niagara Falls', cultivar of H. 'Montana'
pic by Perennial Resource*

produced 'Blue Angel', 'Guardian Angel' and 'Earth Angel'.)

Hosta sieboldiana – Large, perfect for colder climates with long winters and lots of snow. Popular cultivars are 'Elegans', 'Frances Williams', 'Olive Bailey Langdon', 'Great Expectations', 'Big Daddy', 'Blue Mammoth', 'Piedmont Gold' and 'Satisfaction'. (Note: Crosses between sieboldiana and tardiana varieties produced 'Halcyon' (see below), 'June' and 'First Frost', which have adapted well in the South.)

Hosta 'Tokudama' – Large, related to sieboldiana, round and cupped leaves, slug-resistant, slow grower but very strong. Popular cultivars are 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd', 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa', 'Tokudama Flavocircinalis' and 'Love Pat'.

Hosta nigrescens – Large, slug- and wind-resistant, vase-shaped leaves with extremely tall bloom scapes,

Continued on following page

Grow Your Hostas as Per Species Habits

continued

looks good all summer. Popular cultivars are 'Krossa Regal', 'Regal Splendor', 'Victory' and 'Key West'.

Hosta fluctuans – Large, undulating thick leaves, wind and slug-resistant, looks nice until initial frost. Popular cultivars are 'Sagae' (formerly fluctuans 'Variegated,' top right), 'Liberty', 'Ivory Coast', 'Lakeside Surf Rider' and 'Fat Cat'.

Hosta ventricosa – Medium, needs lots of sun and water to produce purple flowers in August, only hosta with asexual seedlings identical to mother plant. Popular cultivars are ventricosa Aureomarginata', 'Lakeside Black Satin' and 'Slick Willie'.

Hosta hypoleuca – Large, white coating on back of leaves, should be planted in sunny area, likes sandy and/or clay soil with good drainage, can survive periods of drought and flooding, needs mulch in winter. Cultivars are 'A Many Splendored Thing', 'Band of Gold' and 'Lemon Meringue'.

Hosta venusta – Smallest species, best in shady areas, fast spreader. Popular cultivars are 'Gold Drop', 'Hush Puppie', 'Lakeside Neat Petite', 'Tiny Tears', 'Tot Tot', 'Masquerade' and 'Leather Sheen'.

Hosta nakaiana – Small, prefers shady and dry regions like native pine forest, blooms late in season. Popular cultivars are 'Golden Tiara', 'Diamond Tiara', 'Emerald Tiara', 'Grand Tiara', 'Golden Scepter', 'Lemon Lime', 'Olive Branch', 'Candy Hearts', 'Birchwood Parky's Gold', 'Blue Cadet' and 'Blue Mouse Ears'.

Hosta capitata, Hosta laevigata, Hosta yingeri – Few cultivars are related to capitata and laevigata, but yingeri has several dark-green cultivars with thick leaves that retain water and thrive in dry and shady areas: 'Lakeside Looking Glass' (small), 'Quill' (small) and 'Potomac Pride' (large).

Reprinted from the Mid-South Hosta Society's newsletter, Hosta Hotline, November 2015.

The Minnesota Hosta Society is delighted to be the host for the AHS 2020 convention. Our theme, Hosta Vision 2020, reflects not only the year, but also the ever expanding use of hosta in the garden. Hostas continue to be America's number one perennial due to their versatility in the landscape. Plus they thrive in Minnesota's Zone 4!

- June 11, 12 and 13th, 2020 formal convention dates:
- Seven Meals Include (Breakfast (F/Sat), Lunch (Th/Fr/Sat) & Dinner (Th/Sat)
- Six Educational speakers (Thursday and Saturday afternoons, 3 each day)
- Garden Tours (Fri & Sat morning) – Op-in to ride a bus or drive on your own
- Hosta Show - Open Show Thurs-Saturday
- Judges Clinics – Clinic 1: Wed. 1-5 pm, Clinic 2: Th. 9-11 am, Clinic 3: Fri. 7-8 pm
- Hospitality (Wed/Th/Fri/Sat) – evening start time varies, ends daily at 11pm
- AHS Auction (Friday) – 1:30 – 5:30 pm
- Vending (Th/Fr/Sat) – times vary
- June 10 add on optional tour to SE MN/Rochester. Limited to 100. Cost \$50/ person and includes a breakfast and box lunch. Bus leaves hotel at 7 am **SHARP** and anticipated to return about 5:30 pm. Tour includes a minimum of 6 lovely gardens. Shades of Green Hosta Society hosting.

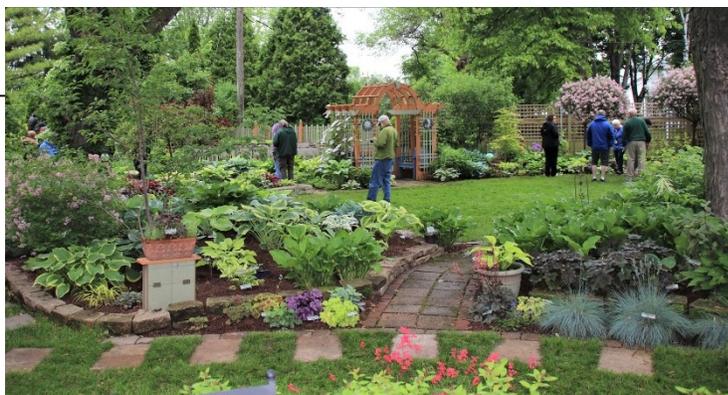
Go to the website for all the details <https://hostavision2020.com/>



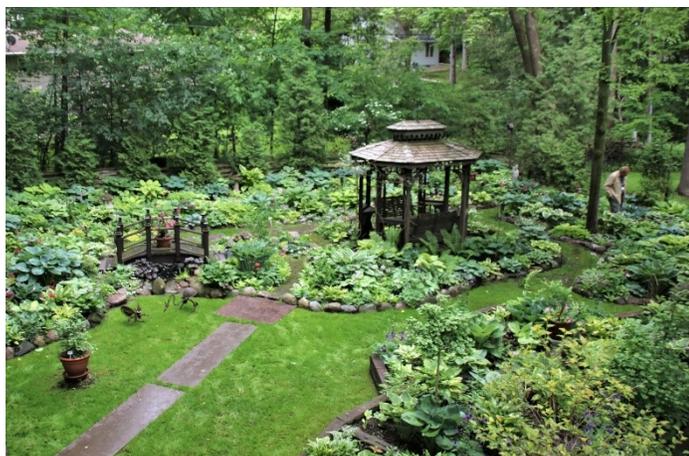
DAVE'S VIEW

AHS Convention Green Bay

By Dave Trollope



Dave's camera captures the lush northwoods gardens of Green Bay during the June AHS convention.



DAVE'S VIEW

AHS Convention Green Bay

continued

All pics by Dave Trollope



Putting Cantigny Garden To Bed



Nine Cantigny volunteers and Cantigny staffer, Samantha Peckham, prepared our Cantigny hosta garden for its long winter slumber on Nov 5. The weather, thankfully, was bright & brisk.

These hardy volunteers are June Vandervest, Nancy Slove, Diane Barrowman, Mike Kraus, Barbara King, Nancy Huck, Sharon Roddan, Mark Meginess, & Linda Lood.

My Favorite Hosta: Hosta 'Blueberry Waffles'

By Judy Artley

What is my favorite hosta? My answer changes over time: sometimes months, sometimes weeks, sometimes even second by second. I posted a garden picture with the caption of "my favorite hosta the one that I'm looking at now" on my Facebook page. I got many "Likes." But one friend wrote, "The one that the chickens ate and didn't grow back." He's welcome to visit without his chickens. Presently, my favorite is the big blue hosta, H. 'Blueberry Waffles' (BW for short). It has deep purple blue leaves (the color of blueberries) with heavy corrugation and ripples. When BW is in bloom it has spikes full of white flowers that draw the eye to the crinkly mound of foliage, like a spotlight. A friend admits to suffering blueberry envy, and warns me not to be surprised if BW goes missing. BW is a cross of H. 'Spilt Milk' and H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd', which makes it a sieboldiana type.* It was registered in 2009 by Sandy Brown of Grand Rapids, MI. BW was a fan favorite at the 2009 AHS Garden Tours. The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association held a "mock" leaf show for members on July 17. No formal judging occurred, but AHS Master Judge Paula Lehtola and AHS Senior Judge Mary Arnberg picked my BW as the best in show. (They did not know BW was mine.)

Reprinted from "LEAF LETTERS" July 2019 from the New England Hosta Society newsletter.



Pic from garden.org



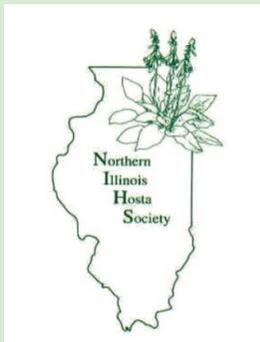
Hosta 'Blueberry Waffles', pic by Sandy Brown

H. 'Blueberry Waffles' by the Numbers			
AHS registration: http://hostatreasury.org/detail.php?id=648			
Clump Description			
<i>Growth Rate</i>	Medium	<i>Habit</i>	Mound-like
<i>Plant Height</i>	30"	<i>Plant Width</i>	68"
Leaf Description			
<i>Color Center</i>	blue-green	<i>Vein Pairs</i>	18
<i>Leaf Length</i>	15"	<i>Leaf Width</i>	12.5"
<i>Margin Appearance</i>	Slightly rippled	<i>Leaf Appearance</i>	Intensely corrugated
<i>Texture Top</i>	Glaucous bloom	<i>Texture Bottom</i>	Glaucous bloom
<i>Leaf Shape</i>	Broadly ovate	<i>Leaf Base</i>	Cordate
Scape Description			
<i>Height</i>	29"	<i>Color</i>	Green
Flower Description			
<i>Color</i>	white to pale lavender	<i>Length</i>	1.75"
<i>Shape</i>	Tubular	<i>Color Pattern</i>	Slight lavender striping
Seed Information			
<i>Viable?</i>	Yes	<i>Pod Color</i>	Green

NIHS Membership Secretary

84 Dunham Place

St. Charles, IL 60174



The Northern Illinois Hosta Society is dedicated to educating the public and promoting the use of hosta in the landscape. NIHS serves the people of Northern Illinois and surrounding areas.



Join the fun with fellow hostaphiles at our **Dec 8 Holiday Potluck Party** hosted by Arlene & Bruce Solyom in Lombard. See inside page 3 for details. The above photo is from the 2018 Holiday Potluck Party hosted by Lenny & Mike Kraus.

Pic by Ron Asselborn



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Get your Hosta Fix on Jan31 - Feb 1, 2020 at the Winter Hosta Symposium. You will need it after a cold January! This photo from the 2019 Symposium. See page 4 inside. *Pic by Jack Barta*

