

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 98

MAY 2017

2017 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **June 3 & 4, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden**
- **June 7-10, American Hosta Society Convention, Indianapolis, IN**
- **June 18, Hosta Garden Walk #1, McHenry**
- **June 22 -25, 2017 MRHS 2017 Convention, Kansas City**
- **July 9, Hosta Garden Walk #2, Deerfield**
- **July 15, Annual Bus Tour to Southern Wisconsin**
- **July 16, Hosta Garden Walk #3, Kirkland**
- **Aug 6, Hosta Garden Walk #4, Schaumburg**
- **Aug 13, Hosta Auction/ Fund Raiser, Hinsdale Community House**
- **Sept TBD, Pot Luck & Annual Mtg**
- **Oct 8, NIHS 25th Anniversary Celebration & Symposium**
- **Dec TBD. Holiday Party**

President's Letter

As my time as your president dwindles down, I find myself looking both backward and forward. There is a lot more backward to dwell on at this point, of course, and I will do that over my remaining months. I'd like to devote this letter to a forward glance at something new for the Northern Illinois Hosta Society.

The NIHS Board has added a new event to our annual schedule: A fall symposium in October.

We will inaugurate the new fall symposium with a bang on October 8 by celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society. To highlight the program Tom Micheletti will be our keynote speaker. Tom was NIHS' first president and the person responsible for creating the Society in 1992. Most of you know that Tom ultimately became President of the American Hosta Society, where he served two terms, and he has maintained his ties with NIHS.

Another reason for creating a fall symposium is to fill a void after a busy summer each year. This new symposium nicely balances the one at Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines in late April/early May each year. We've had some terrific speakers at this one over the years and quite a few members attend. I would like to see even more events in the "off-season," but we have not yet developed them.

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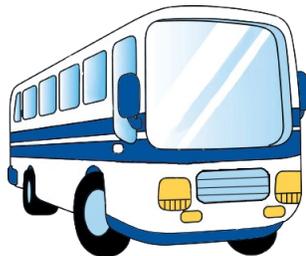
President's Letter *continued*

There are other features of this anniversary celebration that are not yet finalized, but I guarantee they will be exciting and appealing to you, so mark October 8 on your calendars now! More next time.

If any of you have suggestions or ideas about the anniversary party, please don't hesitate to share them with me or with any Board member. We would also welcome volunteers who would like to help with the event. It promises to be a very special occasion.

Barbara

Last Call July 15 South- ern Wisconsin Bus Tour



As of this writing **four seats** are still available for the bus tour. Late registrations will be accepted at the rate of \$50 per person. We will depart from Woodfield Mall at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15. We will visit gardens in Rockford, Janesville, Evansville and Madison. **A fourth stop has been added** at the garden of Tom and Mary Riddle who operate a home based business, Hosta Garden Companions. Theirs was an optional garden at the 2011 MRHS convention. Their collection includes hundreds of hostas. The March newsletter included descriptions and pictures of the other gardens.

If you are interested in joining the tour please call Mark Rekoske to check on availability and to hold your reservation. His number is 224-622-1171.



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Benefit for Bolivia
Saturday, June 3, 2017
9am - 4pm

Hosta sales, Bolivian arts & crafts sales and estate sale items benefit Mano a Mano International Partners. This organization builds schools, hospitals, roads, and reservoirs in rural Bolivia.

Cash or check only.

Hundreds of Hosta varieties always available! Lovely shade-tolerant conifers and Japanese maples make great companion plants for hostas. Tour the nursery and see unusual conifers, ginkgos, Japanese maples, European beeches, and more.

March 18 - November 22: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday
November 27 - March 16: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday

11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098
815-338-7442
coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

PARTICIPATE in NIHS LEAF DISPLAY JUNE 3 & 4 at CBG

We are getting ready for our annual event at Chicago Botanic Garden and WE NEED SOME OF YOUR HOSTA LEAVES! Several hundred people come to our display each year to see and learn about hostas, purchase them from our vendors, and tell us what their favorites are. But we need several hundred hosta leaves to make a real impact.

PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS BY DONATING LEAVES FROM SOME OF YOUR BEST HOSTAS. IT'S EASY—HERE'S WHAT TO DO.



First, identify the best looking hostas you have. Then:

- Select as perfect a leaf as you can find and cut it cleanly from one of them within 48 hours of the beginning of the display.

Be sure to leave the petiole long enough to put in a vase as shown in the photo.

- Write the name of the hosta on the petiole with something like a waterproof Sharpie Ultra Fine Point felt tip pen, or securely label the leaf in some other way.

- Thoroughly wash any dirt or debris from the leaf and put it in cool water to keep it fresh.

- Repeat the process for as many hosta leaves as you wish to bring to the display.

NIHS members will be at CBG on Friday, June 2, between 9 am and noon and on Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10 am to accept your leaves and help set them up for display.

If you cannot get there during those hours, or if CBG is too far away for you, you can drop off your donations at Lou Horton's home no later than the evening of Thurs-

day, June 1. Let him know you are coming: Phone him at 630-293-7735, or send an email to lehorton85@ameritech.net. Lou will take your leaves to CBG.

If you live in another area and need help getting your leaves to the display, contact Barbara King at 630-643-2263 or bhk430@att.net and she will find someone who can do that for you.

To help at the exhibit between 10 am and 4:30 pm Saturday or Sunday call or email Nancy Bodinet, who is coordinating the volunteers (847-550-0897; Bodinet@sbcglobal.net).

Experience the Hosta Leaf Display June 3 & 4

Chicago Botanic Gardens

Back Again - Lou Horton WORKSHOP on Saturday 1:00pm

"Hosta Growing Tips"

Plus Hosta & Fern Vendor Sales by members
Jim Morrow, Jean Lundberg, & Jack Barta.

Vote for your favorite hosta Leaf

Display hours 10 am to 4:30 pm both days



NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS

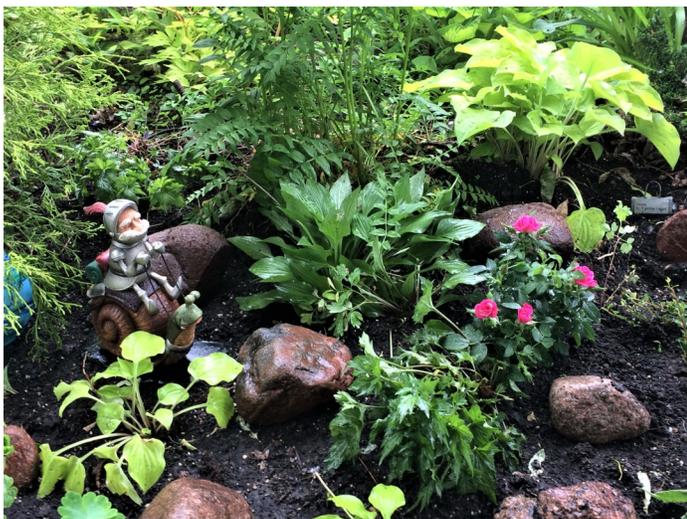
Two-fer Hosta Garden Walk Preview June 18 in McHenry

Mark your calendars for our first garden walk of 2017. It will be a twofer on Sunday, June 18. We will visit two outstanding shade gardens in northwest suburban McHenry. Both were featured on the 2015 University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners Garden Walk.

Dawn Anderson, a long-time NIHS member, provided the following description. Welcome to Made in the Shade Garden! In 2003 I moved to a new house & I also moved my garden. Initially the backyard was all grass, 2 trees and mostly full sun. Not the best environment for a shade gardener and 200+ shade plants that needed a home. I hired a crew to remove the back lawn, rototill the beds and plant the bigger trees I had purchased. The rest was up to me. I spent the fall finding new homes for all my transplants and new plants I had purchased along the way.

Advance 14 years, most of the back garden is immersed in shade from the towering trees with stone paths that gently lead you from one garden bed to another where you can see beautiful foliage and flowers. It's a mecca for all sorts of wildlife. Over the years I have been planting easy-to-care-for plants - lilies, peonies, daylilies, grasses, hydrangeas and hostas. What matters most to me is my peaceful garden and the wildlife that visit.

Anderson Garden



Michael/Walter garden

Ellen Michael and Tom Walter garden just blocks away from the Anderson garden on a one-acre lot that has been a work in progress since 1992. Ellen provided the following description. Our property is surrounded by mature oak trees & is mostly shaded. I have over 250 varieties of hosta and have found that after 20 years some hostas need replacement. So we have a mix of old standbys like Sum and Substance and Montana Aureomarginata and newer favorites like Autumn Frost and Curly Fries. In addition to the hostas, pulmonaria perform well & I use them as a ground cover. I also have many varieties of ferns, brunnera and other shade tolerant plants.

Over the last 10 years we have added many shrubs and understory trees including 20 varieties of Japanese maples. Other trees and shrubs include rebuds, hemlocks, Tri-Color beech, Oak Leaf hydrangeas, and Korean maples. An interesting tree we planted recently is a Japanese Emperor oak. We are looking forward to seeing what it does this spring. A highlight of your visit our garden will be a beautiful Kaleidoscope plant stand planted with miniature hostas.

Driving directions:

Take Illinois Route 12, 59, or 31 north to Illinois Route 120 (Elm Street) in McHenry. Turn left onto Elm Street and proceed about 0.5 miles west of Route 31. Continue past the traffic light at Crystal Lake Road and then turn left onto Meadow Lane. After two blocks turn left onto Oakwood Lane. The **Anderson garden** will be on the right after about three blocks at 1019 N. Oakwood Drive.

The **Michael garden** is only about one minute away from the Anderson garden. Turn around and proceed north on Oakwood Drive. Take the first right onto Chesterfield Drive. Then take the first left onto Ashley Drive. Proceed about three blocks and take the third left turn onto Sussex Drive. The Michael garden at 4612 Sussex Drive will be on the left after about one block.

GARDENING with Hostas

By Diana Stoll



What a difference a day can make !

The following story may be too horrifying for hard core hostaphiles. For me, it begins as a tale of horror, turns to one of acceptance, and finally, a change of heart. It all began about fifteen years ago when my love for hostas became an obsession. I was enabled by like-minded people as we went on garden walks and traveled to conventions. I amassed a collection of close to 400 different cultivars, labeled each one carefully, and I was happy. Does this story sound familiar?

Then the day came that changed my garden forever. I hired a landscaping company to help me with spring clean-up. When I got home, the gardens looked spectacular at first glance. Unsightly foliage was gone and fresh mulch completed the scene.

As I admired the beauty of the landscape, a sick feeling began in the pit of my stomach. My heart rate increased, and my green thumbs started twitching. The labels, where were the labels?

As the workers raked the plant debris from the beds and borders, the tines of their rakes grabbed more than dead stems and leaves. They also snatched nearly every carefully-placed label. How did the metal rectangles held by two stakes go unnoticed?

I was sad, and I was angry. I spent several months looking through old receipts and saved plant tags, trying to map the gardens. Some hostas were easy to identify like June, Guacamole, Praying Hands, and Sum & Substance. Others were impossible to distinguish from other similar-looking cultivars.

It took quite a while for me to concede that I would never be able to identify all my hostas again. But once I accepted it, something remarkable happened. The pressure of collecting disappeared. I no longer carried lists in my purse. I stopped paying way too much for hostas just because I didn't already have them.

I once again started appreciating hostas for their beauty, not their names, as I had before the genus became an obsession. I purchased cultivars because they were pretty, not because I didn't already have them. I even bought

hostas I already had! I created groupings of them, used some as groundcovers, and even removed specimens that weren't pulling their weight in the landscape. I no longer needed to keep under-performing cultivars.

Do I miss the garden boasting a beautiful hosta collection neatly signed? And miss the chase of an un-owned cultivar? Sometimes. Do I wish I knew just how many different types of hostas are planted throughout my landscape? Yup. Do I still look through catalogs and visit garden centers in search of beautiful hostas? Just try and stop me.

But sometimes when life sends an obsessed hosta collector a careless landscape crew, she learns to look at her hostas in a different way – as beautiful plants in a garden that pleases and nurtures her.

Diana Stoll is an NIHS member & garden writer who writes a weekly column for the Chicago Daily Herald. She blogs regularly at www.gardenwithdiana.com.



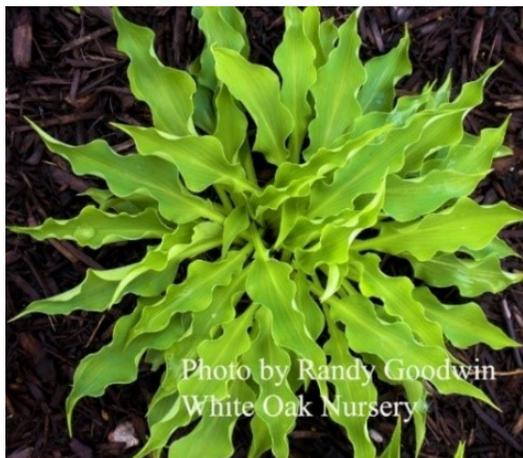
Over 700 Varieties available for the 2017 season.

Some in limited quantities, so order early.

New for 2017!

Twenty-five hosta introductions from Randy Goodwin!

Never released to the public, including the following.



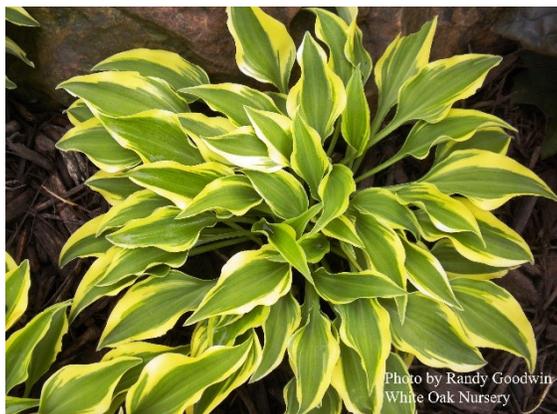
Hosta 'Aracus'

Originator stock—Lighter veins with an undulating wavy edge on a lance shaped leaf
(Small—12" x 25")



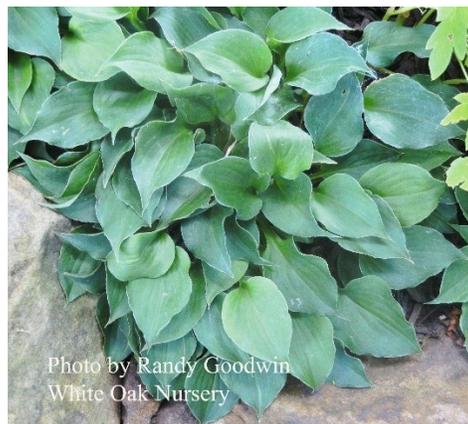
Hosta 'Happy'

Originator stock—deep green centers with wide creamy margins that lighten during the season
(Small—12" x 20")



Hosta 'National Treasure'

Originator stock—Swirling leaves with green centers and nice creamy white margins; forms a beautiful mound (mini - 3" x 10")



Hosta 'Small World'

Originator stock - thick, leathery, blue-green leaves are held upright; slightly twisted, pointed leaves are eye-catching (Small - 6" x 10")

White Oak Nursery

309-369-2065

hostas@whiteoaknursery.com

www.whiteoaknursery.com

Open Garden days – June 3-4 and 17-18, 2017 - Noon to 4 P.M.



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**Owners Mike Krueger and Rhonda Mulligan
Open Sat. & Sun. May 27-28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Other times by appointment.**

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Like us on Facebook! [Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm](#) and now [Hollywood Bob's Hosta Farm II](#) in Illinois!

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June 3-4th

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HOSTA HAPPENINGS

THE CANTIGNY HOSTA GARDEN UPDATE

The 5-year renovation of the Cantigny Park that was scheduled to start at the end of March is beginning only now because Du Page County has taken so long to approve the construction permit. Even so, we knew last year that 2017 would be a year of holding in place for the garden because of the construction all around it.

Nonetheless, twenty NIHS people went through volunteer training at Cantigny between February and April. Our first workday of the season will be on **May 23**, when our volunteers will clean up, spread mulch around the plants, and add chips to the paths to make everything look spiffy for Memorial Day Weekend.

Nearly all of the hostas have come up, and they look terrific. Some will probably need to be transplanted a bit later in the season for aesthetic reasons, or because they are crowding each other—if that doesn't interfere with the construction.

Cantigny has told us that an area adjacent to the hosta garden to the east will become available to us when the construction is completed. The Society is holding about



100 hostas at a member's country home until then. Most of them came from Bea McGovern's garden in Naperville, and others are holdovers from acquisitions late last year. Quite a few more will go into this year's fundraising auction in August. The photo (above) shows plants that are happy, healthy and well cared for—they are under shade cloth and getting adequate water.

We will continue to schedule workdays throughout the growing season so we can keep the garden looking its best.

There have been some questions about a dedication of the garden, which is something we definitely want to have. The question is when. The Board & I wish to wait to schedule a dedication until we know what level of disruption the construction will create around the hosta garden. If we invite prominent AHS, Cantigny and other hosta people to the dedication and to tour the garden, we want it to look its very best. That may not be the case for a while, so a delay seems prudent.

We will, however, find an appropriate setting in the garden this summer for the beautiful plaque we received last fall from AHS proclaiming it an AHS National Display Garden. You can see the plaque on the NIHS website. Here's the link:

<http://www.northernillinoishostasociety.org/cantigny.html>

Our AHS national Display Garden at Cantigny Park in May 2016.



BITS AND PIECES

Welcome our New Columnist, Diana

Stoll. Diana's column, **Gardening with Hostas**, premieres in this issue on page 5. Diana brings an expert's perspective with an interesting twist!

Patronize Our Advertisers, Our advertisers each have special Sale and/or Open House dates that would be a perfect time to shop for some great hostas and companions. June is a great time for planting hostas.

Hosta Walk Garden Hosts, Our Program VP, Mark Rekoske, is always looking for special gardens for hosta walks. If you know of such gardens, or if you have one, please contact Mark at ma-rekoske@gmail.com.

Hold the Date, Oct 8, for the celebration of NIHS' 25th anniversary with special guest speaker Tom Micheletti. See Barbara King's 'President's Letter' for current plans. Look for more details next newsletter.

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

Dawn Anderson, McHenry

Janice Becker, Deerfield

Beth Brace, LaGrange

Mike and Pam Carr, Cherry Valley

Lyn Downing, Carpentersville

Juanita Fernandez, Schererville, IN

Renata Gozdiak, Bristol

Bill & Adrienne Horn, Crystal Lake

Zoe Ingersoll, St. Charles

Victoria Lawhead

Ellen Michael, McHenry

Nancy L. Rogers,

Glen Ellyn

Elva Solis

Jennifer Stillo, Downers Grove



Join the NIHS by contacting Stevie Meginness, Chairman, 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 4 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.



Spring Symposium
April 29



Nina Koziol, above & left, presented inspiring “Ideas for the shade-challenged gardener”. Her focus was companion plants for the semi-shade hosta garden with many practical examples.

Mark Rekoske, bottom left and right, did double duty as our host and distributor of the Sponsor Plants.



Gorgeous Garden Walk Preview July 9 Deerfield

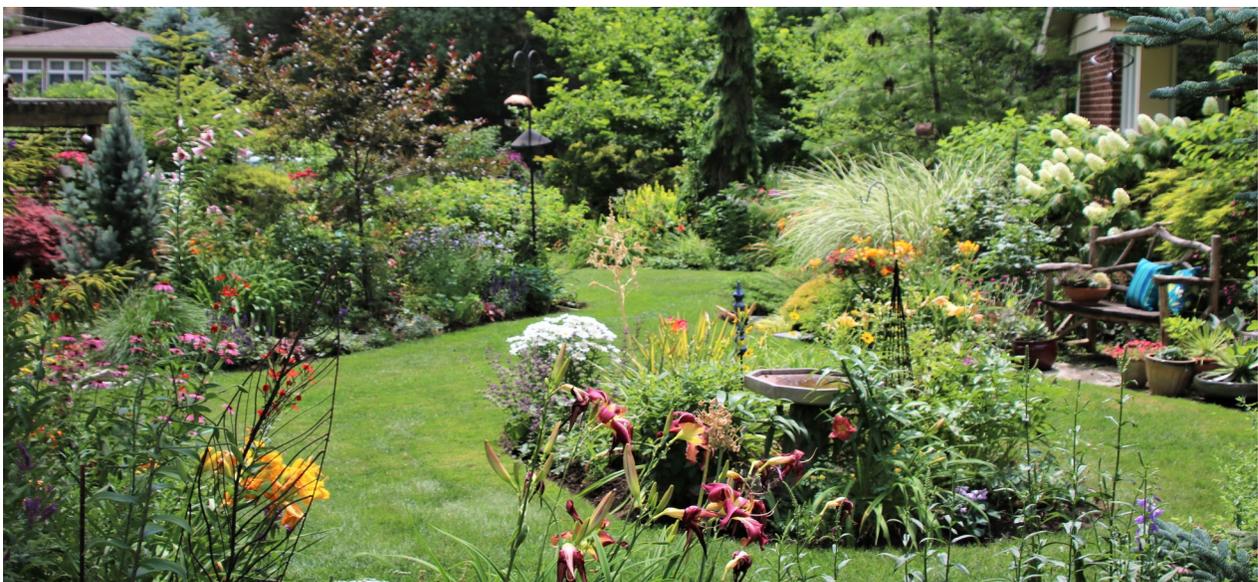
Janice Becker hosts our second Hosta Garden Walk of the season in Deerfield on Sunday, July 9. Janice's garden was featured last year in "Fine Gardening" magazine. She describes herself as a collector of plants and her garden exhibits a great eye for composition. Janice provided the following description of her garden and her plant collecting habit.

"I started gardening in earnest 20 years ago just simply for fun and to improve the yard around my house beyond the simple annuals I was used to planting. In 1998 I became a Master Gardener with classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As a condition of completion I had to volunteer in the Plant Evaluation Gardens. There I saw plants I never knew existed: trollius, euphorbia, Rodgersia. My interest in gardening was piqued, not because I wanted to design gardens but because I wanted the plants. I am not a designer; I am a plant geek. No sweeps of plants in my garden; I barely have room for the onesies that I have. I garden on a typical suburban corner lot that has become my piece of paradise.



I have spent the last ten years volunteering at the CBG for Richard Hawke, the Plant Evaluation Manager. We talk plants, visit gardens, and attend plant symposia. Suffice it to say, there are still plants that I have just brought into my garden: syneilesis, deinanthe, arenaria. I just want to see the plants growing in my garden.

Hosta?? What's not to love about hosta?! My favorite is 'Liberty', but who can criticize 'Mini Skirt'? And, last summer 'Slim and Trim' put on a spectacular display of blooms. I've got oldies like 'Piedmont Gold' and newbies like 'Curly Fries'. Hope to see you in July!"



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Hellebores: Prelude to Spring

Most hellebores are native to mountainous regions of Europe, in open oak and beech woodlands, scrub areas, grassy meadows and on rocky slopes. They are best viewed on a hillside but even on flat land, they can be greatly enjoyed. They are shade loving evergreen perennials that bloom in early spring. Hellebores are happy with other shade-loving perennials including ferns, hosta, gingers, short shade grasses, snowdrops, aconites, woodland phlox, primroses and hepaticas. They are grown in sandy or clay soils as long as plenty of humus is added when planted. Freezing and thawing do not usually damage the flowers.

Hellebores likely arrived in North American shores early in the continent's colonial history. The earliest cultivation may have been for use as an insecticide to treat other plants rather than ornamentals in their own right. John Bertram first mentioned them in his writings. Interest in hellebore was strong after WWII and they were valued for their foliage, flowers and ease of culture. In late winter, the flowers emerge from the barren ground to provide a prelude to spring. Elizabeth Strongman states in *The Gardeners Guide to Growing Hellebores*, 1993, "The Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose are nature's gift to gardeners in the dismal months after Christmas when the weather is cold and discouraging and spring seems a long way off. At a time when few other flowers brave the elements, only Snowdrops in their prime whiteness and fascinating variety of forms can compete with the hellebores." They bloom for two months or more – longer when spring arrives slowly and nights stay cool. Elegant simplicity describes their fantastic



foliage, precocious bloom and beautiful flowers, singles, doubles and anemone centered in many lush colors. Once new foliage emerges in February–March, cut away carefully last year's foliage so plants look tidy and display flowers to the best advantage. By and large, hellebores are pest free. Do not plant hellebore too deeply nor bury the crown of the plant. They come close to being the perfect perennial with long-lasting blooms, hardiness, durability and a few are fragrant.

Mature clumps may be divided but both the old and new divisions are slow to recover from transplant shock. A mother plant produces many seedlings that, after a year, may be pricked out (best done in the fall) and planted to check their worthiness in flower shape and color. Do not allow seedlings to stay by the moth-

er plant too long as they can be smothered by her foliage. Honey bees, bumble bees and other small bees are the primary pollinators of hellebore. Pollen from one flower fertilizes another on the same plant. Cross fertilization from one plant to another occurs freely. Buy plants in bloom for the exact color desired.

continued next page



Hellebores: Prelude to Spring continued

Great Britain has done much in crosses and seed strains of hellebores. Most of the best hybrids available in America today are seed strains, some developed by making controlled crosses, while others come more or less true from open pollinated plants. Henry Ross at Grandview Horticultural Park in Strongsville, OH, began growing seedlings in 1950 and did so for 50 years. The first hellebore I saw was 20 years ago: *H. niger*, Christmas Rose with its white pristine flowers and I have been smitten ever since. There are many classifications for hellebore. The most familiar are *niger*, *hybridis* (Lenten Rose), *orientalis* and *foetidus*.

Those hybridizing and propagating hellebore include Sam and Carleen Jones of Picadilly Farm in Bishop, GA, and

Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farm in Clarksville, VA. Both farms have Spring Open Hellebore Days – a treat to attend and you can purchase blooming plants.



Judith Tyler and C. Colston Burrell's book *Hellebores (A Comprehensive Guide)* is an excellent source for all the plant knowledge for beginning and advanced gardeners, and includes listings of those actively hybridizing today. Presently hellebore are being developed to have upfacing flowers, doubles, combinations, stronger stems, foliage that remains clean and healthy and color on reverse of the flowers. Float short stem blooms in a shallow dish for a beautiful display. Seal the stems of longer blooms and display in a short vase for enjoyment indoors. So begin now... buy a hellebore plant, enjoy its beauty and you also may be smitten by this near perfect perennial.

By Anne Randall, MVHS Member Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange

What You Need to Know About Neonicotinoids When Purchasing Plants

By Ann O'Leary

Neonicotinoids are a group of insecticides that are used widely on farms, as well as around our homes, schools, and city landscapes. Used to protect against sap-sucking and leaf-chewing insects, neonicotinoids are systemic, which means they are absorbed by the plant tissues and expressed in all parts, including nectar and pollen. Unfortunately, bees, butterflies, and other flower-visiting insects are neurologically harmed and even killed by the residues.

Home garden products containing neonicotinoids can legally be applied in far greater concentrations in gardens than they can be on farms — sometimes at concentrations as much as 120 times as great which increases the risk to our pollinators.

Furthermore, several studies have shown that neonicotinoid pesticides harm birds, both by leaching into the soil and causing neurological damage and by killing off insects that some species rely on for food.

As a gardener, you have an unique opportunity to help protect pollinators by avoiding the use of these insecticides. The neonicotinoid family includes acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam and dinotefuran. Ask your local nursery or garden center if plants have been treated with neonicotinoids. If so, don't buy them. This is yet another reason to seriously consider moving towards an all native garden. All native gardens do not require the use of insecticides. What could be simpler than that?

From Venice Area Audubon newsletter Mar-Apr 2017

Country Garden Preview
The Hood's New Garden in
Kirkland
July 16



Dennis and Connie Hood moved to Kirkland IL, about 30 miles west of their former home in Elgin, three years ago. They immediately set out to create a garden that included many of their favorite hostas. The Hoods will host our third garden walk of 2017 on Sunday, July 16. Their garden will also be featured on the DeKalb County Master Gardeners Garden Walk this year.

Hood's Hosta Habitat II is the joint effort of Dennis and Connie Hood and many volunteers. It began three years ago with 150 hostas brought from their previous home in Elgin. The current gardens now include 450 hostas enriched by numerous clematis, hydrangeas, native plants, and multiple young shrubs and trees.

"Our gardens are a combination of wild life habitat with a hosta overdose" says Connie. "In addition, there are native and perennial accents with trees and shrubs that attract humans as well as birds, insects and small mammals. It is a four season kaleidoscope of plant life.

We have included both natural elements such as rocks and logs, as well as splashes of color from flags, wind socks and even an obelisk. You will find several seating areas where you can absorb the breeze and the sound of birds (and a lawn mower or two).



There are chimes in strategic locations that give even more depth to the garden persona. Oh, oh! We almost forgot Maude, our sprite. She adds the last element---water---to make the garden atmosphere complete.

Please note that our new landscape is largely sun infested. Our blended grounds include plantings of spring bulbs, iris, day lilies, roses, yuccas, butterfly weed, lavender, & sedum. Amongst the minimally shaded hostas are coral bells, astilbe and fun shrubs such as pagoda dogwood and Japanese maples."

The Hoods inherited a well landscaped yard from the previous owner. They have expanded to 41 beds with a dual emphasis on hosta and wildlife habitat. "We have added features that encourage the presence of God's creatures. If you watch and listen, you may observe the fox squirrels playing, the Cooper's hawk hunting, the oriole singing and the bumblebees droning over the wide variety of plant life and a human face or two, enjoying the miracle of creation."

And finally, the habitat is a pinch of whimsy thrown in with a dash of spontaneity held together by hard labor and a whole bunch of love. It is an unfinished, never ending fantasy that lives in the hearts of these two enduring collectors.

It's A Worm, What's Not To Like?

By June Vandervest

As school children, we've all been taught that earthworms are good for the soil; they help aerate the ground and their castings enrich the soil. Perhaps you have not heard that there is a new villain on the prowl in Illinois. Its scientific name is *Amyntas agrestis*, the so called *Asian Jumping Worm*. First identified on the East Coast where it has decimated many forested areas, it was identified in Wisconsin in October of 2013 and in Illinois in August of 2015 at a home in Wilmette and also at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. It has since been found in Naperville and Wheaton.

I learned about this new invader from the Illinois First Detector classes I attended at the Morton Arboretum. Attention has been brought to the general public this spring with the cancellation by the Hardy Plant Society of Madison, WI of their annual spring plant sale for the first time in twenty years for fear of unintentional spreading of this menace.

The Jumping Worm's appearance and behavior are markedly different than that of our common earth-

worms or night crawlers. The mature Jumping Worms are found in the top few inches of soil and when disturbed, thrash violently. Their lowly cousins the common earthworm and night crawlers are found eight or more inches below the ground and have very little active movement. Another telling feature is the appearance of coffee ground-like castings on top of the soil surface.

They are heavy feeders in the upper surface leaf litter and degrade the quality of soil. These worms are easy to identify visually by the darker, smoother look of their bodies and the light colored band called the clitellum near the head that completely encircles the body. The clitellum of the common earthworm is light brown, raised slightly above the body and does not encircle it.

The adults cannot survive our winters, but their cocoons do. The cocoons are very tiny and not visible to the naked eye until after the worms have hatched. They are usually not apparent as adults until late June or early July. They reach maturity in about 60 days, thus allowing for a second generation by the fall. Since they can reproduce asexually, they're like the proverbial Energizer, exponentially adding to their population.

The bad news is that, as yet, there is no known chemical or other natural deterrent to stop them. The only thing that we can do is try to minimize their spread by simple cleanliness practices.

We can be on the watch for Jumping Worms and indications of their presence. If you find them, report them to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic. Photos can be sent to: www.plantclinic@illinois.edu for preliminary identification. Read the U of I article at:

www.hygiene.illinois.edu/article.php?id=754

Purchase or trade only landscape materials and plants that appear to be free of jumping worms. Only bare-root or plants potted in sterilized commercial soil, not garden soil, should be accepted. Compost and mulch that has been heat treated should be used. Make sure that soil and debris on vehicles, equipment, garden tools, boots and shoes are kept clean before moving to and from work areas and recreational areas. Educate yourself and others about jumping worms.

If you find these worms, the Wisconsin DRN suggests you destroy them by placing in a closed plastic bag, leaving it in the sun and then dispose of in the trash.

Commonly mistaken for jumping worms.

European nightcrawler
(*Lumbricus terrestris*)

- Body is pink or flesh-toned with a well-defined raised clitellum further down on the body.
- Generally larger, slower, and produce slime when handled.
- Nightcrawlers live deep below the soil surface.

European nightcrawler
Raised clitellum, further from head

Jumping worm
Smooth clitellum, closer to head

JUMPING WORM FIELD GUIDE

Jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp.) dwell on the soil surface and eat leaf litter. They can turn up almost anywhere from urban parks, to suburban backyards, to rural forests. Because they reproduce on their own, a single worm can start a new population. You can help prevent jumping worms from spreading to new areas by knowing what to look for.

More information at:
dnr.wi.gov, keyword "jumping worm"
To report a sighting, email:
Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.gov

DNR PUB FR-550a 2015

Photos by Colleen Robinson

Moynihan Hosta Garden Walk Preview August 6

Susan Moynihan gardens in Schaumburg and will host the final garden walk of the season on Sunday, August 6. There are a few sunny areas, but the garden includes much shade for the hostas and other shade tolerant perennials. Susan provided the following description.

“We bought our home 20 years ago; ¾ of an acre with lots of grass and typical evergreen foundation plantings around the home but miniscule beds in the back yard. Early on, we built some large berms. We brought in two large Douglas Fir trees and a Limber Pine to be the mainstay of the southern berm and added a Honey Locust to anchor the northern berm.

Over the years, as the trees grew they created a great deal of shade. I have added a plethora of plants. To mention some: astilbe, clematis, cacti, many ferns, hellebores, heuchera, hardy geraniums, numerous hydrangea, roses & tree peonies. We created a vegetable garden and I am developing a small woodland garden. Throughout the space I focus on native plants to attract butterflies and bees and just enhance the environment.

Originally the back of the lot was a border of old fashioned hostas which I moved all around the gardens. Then I began to add some unusual and sentimental varieties. There are ‘Blue Angels’ which were given to me by my friend Ina just before she died. I saw ‘Great Expectations’ at the Flower and Garden Show a few years ago when it was the plant of the year. I received ‘White Christmas’ years ago from Hornbakera for my white garden. Last year friends found ‘Marilyn Monroe’ for me. And then there is ‘Strip Tease’! I love the stature



of ‘Frances Williams’ and ‘Sum and Substance’ and the petiteness of ‘Mouse Ears’. Creating my hosta garden to attractively display my plants is a challenge, but I am learning.

I look forward to your coming and visiting my gardens. I hope you will enjoy, give helpful advice, relax and “Make it a marvelous day.”



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Results of June's January Bulb Planting Experiment

By June Vandervest

I challenged my gardening muse to try something new by planting spring flowering bulbs in the middle of January this year. When many of my other spring bulbs had already started to show themselves, nothing was to be seen in the new bed.



Patience won out when in early April, a few daffodil spears starting to peek through the Ajuga. By April 18th the first yellow early daffodils were blooming (see pic above).

And by May 5 many more daffodils were in bloom filling out the bed (see pic below).

I chalk up this little adventure as a success that I hope to enjoy for many years to come.



A (Partial) Roundup of Roundups

New this year to the Roundup brand is "Roundup for Lawns". Yes, I said *brand* and yes, I said *lawns*. Many know Roundup as a nonselective, systemic herbicide used for broad spectrum weed control. The active ingredient or weed killer in this traditional form of Roundup is glyphosate. It's what made the name Roundup well known.

Over the last decade or so we've seen different formulations of Roundup enter into the marketplace – all sporting the Roundup brand name on the front label. Many of these different formulations are actually different products altogether for different intended uses and effects. Take for example, Roundup for Lawns. This new product targets selective weeds in a lawn without killing the lawn (depending on the type of grass). That's because this product does not contain glyphosate. (*Remember, glyphosate will kill MANY different plants including your lawn.*) Instead, this product contains a mix of several herbicides including dicamba and sulfentrazone. For the full list, refer to the label.

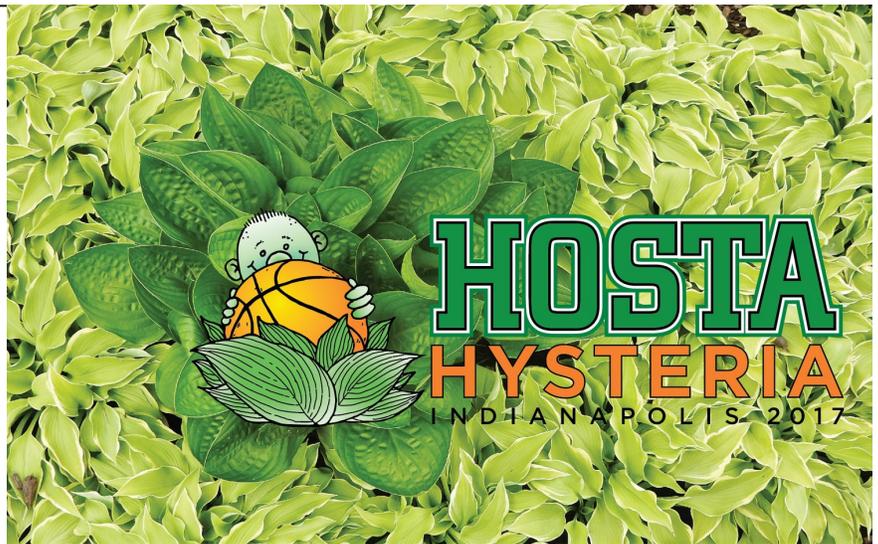
The label should always be carefully read and followed. By doing so, you will ensure that you are buying the right product for the job--one that is approved for use on your intended site. In the past, we've heard too often about home gardeners using Roundup Extended Control in their gardens. Unfortunately, damage resulted and vegetables and ornamentals would not grow. The product label states that this product is not to be used in gardens or lawns. It contains glyphosate, pelargonic acid, and imazapic. The latter provides residual weed control but also unintended injury to garden plants.

For assistance in determining what Roundup products are approved for lawns, gardens, driveways, and patios, visit <https://www.roundup.com/smg/gosite/RUP/home>. The website appears to be user friendly in showing and describing all the available formulations. Please keep in mind that this should be used as reference only and the actual product label must be read and followed when using the product. (Michelle Wiesbrook) Univ of IL Extension Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter April 2017

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

From **June 7-10**, the Indianapolis Hosta Society invites you to experience **HOSTA Hysteria** at the 2017 American Hosta Society National Convention.

The program includes bus tours of ten beautiful gardens, several speakers, vendors and a Hosta show. Plus, to get the excitement started, they are offering three wonderful gardens on Wednesday that you can tour on your own. Or join up for a pre-convention day trip to southern Indiana to experience the historic West Baden Springs Hotel and gardens.



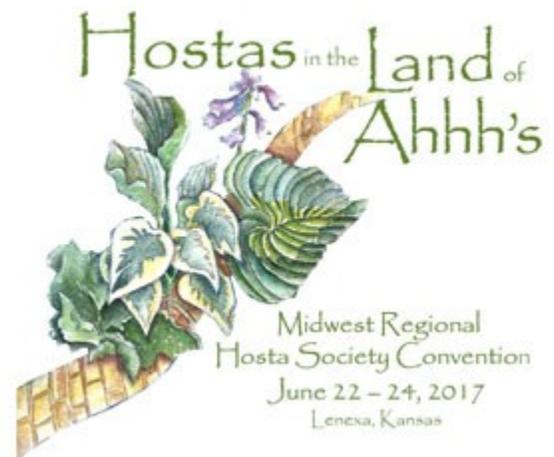
This gala event is scheduled for the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

More convention and hotel information, plus a registration form is available on the Society's website: www.indyhosta2017.com.



From **June 22-24**, Rob Mortko and his band of helpers invite you to experience **Hostas in the Land of Ahhh's** at the 2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention. Highlights include:

- 9 tour gardens
- 6 educational speakers plus 2 banquet speakers
- Hybrid Touring—1 day by bus (optional) and 1 day drive yourself
- A Japanese garden with focus on species hosta from Japan
- A conifer-lovers garden hosted by past-president of the American Conifer Society
- A new twist on Hostality plus a few more surprises



Stay at the **HYATT PLACE KANSAS CITY/LENEXA CITY CENTER**

Click on the convention website for more details: <http://www.2017kchostaconvention.com/Index.html>

How Old Are You? (a.k.a. Keeping Up with the Joneses)

After decades of gardening, one would think that I'd be tired of the whole thing. Planning, digging, preparing the ground, planting, fertilizing, etc., etc... And one would think that after decades of gardening that there wouldn't be too much left out there that I hadn't tried in my gardens at one point in my life. One would be wrong.

This year marks a huge milestone for me. Where the heck did 60 years go? And as I'm nearing my 60th birthday, I find myself to be more fanatical than ever in getting hostas that I've never had, or are new to the marketplace. I would say that's where the 'keeping up with the Joneses' comes to play.

Honestly, it's not that I'm out to have hostas that no one else has. It's more a case of it's brand spankin' new and I have to have it. Those people that I have purchased hostas from know exactly what I'm talking about. I can't buy one or two. I'm more a 20 or 30 type of gal. I tell myself that it's okay to buy that many at one time, because I've saved myself a lot of leg work in hopping from one nursery to the next. Basically, one stop shopping; easy, peasy, my purchasing all done! Sounds great in theory, but I have to admit that I do my so-called "one stop" shopping over and over again with several retailers every new gar-



Hosta 'Krossa Regal'

dening season. I keep tell myself that I'm going to cut back. I wasn't even going to buy any hostas this year for peteyeyed sake.

At the beginning of the season I was around the 700 mark in my display gardens, and lo and behold, I am now nearing the 800 mark. And my motivation for buying a specific type of hosta changes all the time. The absolutely stunning hostas that are being hybridized is outstanding. The markings and designs within leaves both large and small have not been seen before and I HAVE TO HAVE THEM! Plain and simple! Mother Nature is amazing. Yes, some of these hostas have been crossed and crossed again to get a certain look, but let's face it, if it is not meant to survive, Mother Nature wouldn't step in and bring us one outstanding specimen after another.

A whole other factor in my purchasing frenzy is buying hostas that have been around for decades. Heck, if they are still going strong after 30 or 40 years, why wouldn't you want them? Those are 'indestructible' hostas! Those are 'Energizer Bunny' hostas. Sourcing them is a whole other story, but periodically I do trip across them, and guess what... I HAVE TO HAVE THEM!

I try my darnedest to do the research on the hostas I am purchasing. Not all hostas grow for me. Yes, I can modify the soil to keep them happy for awhile, but eventually their roots make there way down to the actual soil of our land, and they don't like it! Case in point is anything in the Krossa Regal family. My Krossa Regal is amazing, but it's taken eight or nine years to look that way. I've had Regal Splendor and Regal Supreme several times, and they have not survived.

Continued next page



Hosta 'Regal Splendor', sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'

How Old Are You? (a.k.a. Keeping Up with the Joneses) continued

I've spent big dollars buying mature specimens, and after a year they die.

Where is the fun in that? I now try to buy hostas that I can just plant in the ground and walk away. That's what draws a person to hostas in the first place. Hostas are supposed to be easy, minimal care plants. Who wants to buy a plant that dies after one season? This year I have purchased one Regalia. I'm keeping my fingers crossed, but history is working against me at this point. And stupidly, I tell myself that this plant will be different. This is the one that's going to disclaim all that I know to be fact. This one WILL GROW!

So, back to my original question of "How Old Are You?" I wonder if age is a factor in my obsession. The artist side of me wants as many new and unique hostas that I can acquire, and I've really gotten worse in the last few years. In my younger day, I would buy what I liked without giving any thought as to whether or not it would grow for me. The only research I would do is look at the tag and if it was good to Zone 3, I knew I had a winner. (I'm in Zone 5b.)



Hosta 'Molly', sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'
Photo by Carol Brashear

Now I do a thorough research online, and if it meets all my criteria, I buy it. Let me rephrase that. I make a wish list for a certain supplier, then I sit on it for a few days. If after a few days I still can't live without it, I place my order. Part of me wants to know that whatever I am buying, it's going to be here for several years to come. THAT'S A LOAD OF CRAP! I am addicted to these damned plants and for the life of me I can't explain the obsession. I do not keep up with the Joneses. I have trouble enough keeping up with myself!

Jayne Christiani ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY Spring 2017 newsletter

Hosta 'Regal Supreme', sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'



Hosta 'Regal Twist', sport of H. 'Krossa Regal'



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**SPRING FORWARD** with Midwest Re-

gional Hosta Society! MRHS has great offers for you to kick-start the new gardening season:

This is the perfect time to *join Midwest Regional Hosta Society! First time members*

(sorry - past members not eligible) *receive a \$10 voucher* good toward a qualifying purchase at any of our vendor sponsors (visit <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/Vendors.shtml>) to view participating vendors (minimum purchase may apply).

But the *perks don't stop there!*

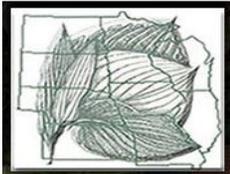
MRHS members (2-year memberships paid through 2017 or beyond) *who attend the 2017 Convention in the "Land of AAHS", Lenexa, Kansas, will receive a ONE YEAR EXTENSION of their membership.* If you haven't renewed yet and plan to attend the convention, it's not too late to cash in on this offer - just get your membership (\$20 for a 2 year membership) in by 04/30/2017 to receive the one year extension and don't forget to register for the convention!

MRHS Membership benefits:

- 2 Electronic Newsletters per year featuring informative articles/convention coverage (additional fee for hard copy newsletters)
- Annual Convention Member Rates + Automatic Membership Extension
- Additional annual gathering (Winter Conference or other event TBD) Member Rates
- First Time Members receive \$10 voucher good at participating vendor sponsors

Send your completed membership application and check (\$20 for 2 years, payable to MRHS) to:

Barb Schroeder 1819 Coventry Drive, Champaign, IL 61822-5239



Midwest Region Hosta Society

Visit: www.midwesthostasociety.org/



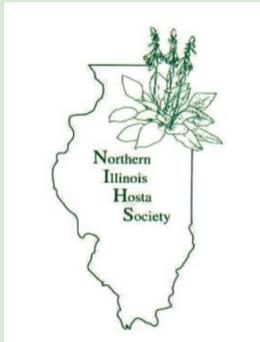
The
american
HOSTA
SOCIETY

www.americanhostasociety.org

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.



Visit the lovely Michael/Walter garden (left) and the Anderson garden (bottom) on the June 18 Hosta garden Walk - the first of the season



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