

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 101

MARCH 2018

## 2018 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 11, Spring Potluck & Garden Tool Swap, West Chicago**
- **May 20, Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup, Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines**
- **June 2-3, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden**
- **June 10, Hosta Garden Walk #1, Sleepy Hollow**
- **June 16, Annual Bus Tour to Rockford & Central Wisconsin**
- **June 20-23, AHS Convention 50th Anniversary, Valley Forge, PA**
- **June 24, Hosta Garden Walk #2, Lisle**
- **July 8, Hosta Garden Walk #3, Bensenville**
- **July 12-14, MRHS Convention in Peoria, IL**
- **July 22, Hosta Garden Walk #4, Glen Ellyn**
- **Aug 12, Annual Hosta Auction & Plant Sale, Community House, Hinsdale**

## President's Letter

As I write this our attention has shifted to 2018 and the January weather has fluctuated between -5 degrees and 52 degrees. In February we received about 12 inches of snow in a matter of days as only it can in Chicago. On the plus side, the days are getting longer and by the time you receive this newsletter we are only a few weeks from getting into the gardens. It will soon be time to decide when to put out our first spread of slug bait and fertilizer.

As summarized in the 2018 Calendar at a Glance we have a busy summer planned for our members once again this year. In March we start the year off with the Potluck and White Elephant Tool Swap on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Pat and April Murphy's in West Chicago. It is a great way to reconnect with our hosta friends as we prepare for the upcoming growing season.

Next up is our Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup event on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's speaker will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Janesville Rotary Gardens. Lou Horton has picked out 4 great sponsor plants. I refer you to the article later in this Newsletter for the details.

June starts out with the Hosta Leaf Display and Plant Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden on June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. The following Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, we have our first Hosta Garden Walk and our annual Bus Tour is scheduled for Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>. The following week, June 20-23, is the American Hosta Society's 50<sup>th</sup> *Continued on page 2*



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## President's Letter continued

Anniversary Convention in Philadelphia-Valley Forge. On June 24<sup>th</sup> we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Garden Walk in Lisle at a garden highlighted in the recent Chicagoland Gardening Magazine.

In July we have two Hosta Garden Walks, July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The MRHS Convention is in Peoria this year on July 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Our annual fundraiser, Hosta Auction & Plant Sale is Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Mark Zilis has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer once again. The 2017 Auction was an incredible success, far exceeding anything we have previously done. We can't say enough about the NIHS member plant donations that make this possible. Let's keep up the good work.

In September we will have our Potluck and Annual Meeting. We are planning our 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall Symposium for October and we will end the year with the annual Holiday Party in December.

Barbara King has agreed to continue to manage and lead our efforts at Cantigny Park with our National Display Garden. Barbara will be our primary contact with Cantigny and manage our army of volunteers.

An issue I will continue to push is requesting more members to volunteer. As you can see, we have a lot of activities scheduled for you (as always), but only a few individuals make sure we have a full calendar of events. I will identify our current needs later in this newsletter as some of our longtime volunteers have retired from their positions. Please consider getting involved. I believe the more people we have, the less any one individual will have to do and the more fun there will be for all.

Our Webmaster, Stevie Meginness, is making changes to the NIHS website. Stevie has added new pages under the RESOURCES Tab - Tip of the Month and Articles of Interest. Another article in this newsletter will explain what you can access on the NIHS Website.

Here's to a great 2018. May your gardens be full and your hostas grow large, even your minis. I hope to see you all March 11<sup>th</sup> at our Spring Potluck and Tool Swap. Hosta-La-Vista, MIKE KRAUS



Open House and Hosta Walk  
June 8-9-10

Artisan Market—September 15

Nursery Open: April 10 – October 10  
Princeton, Illinois (815) 659-3282  
[hornbakergardens.com](http://hornbakergardens.com)



4-Season Event Center  
Weddings  
Corporate Meetings  
Events

[events@hornbakergardens.com](mailto:events@hornbakergardens.com)

## Elim Hosta Gardens

QUALITY HOSTAS AT REASONABLE PRICES



Sue and Owen Purvis' Display Gardens

### Open Garden Schedule

- June 22 & 23, 8 to 5
- June 24, 11 to 5
- Or By Appointment

309 E. South Street, Princeton  
WI 54968  
Just 50 minutes west of Oshkosh

[WWW.elimhostagardens.com](http://WWW.elimhostagardens.com)  
Email [osp1991@sbcglobal.net](mailto:osp1991@sbcglobal.net)  
Call 414-491-8772

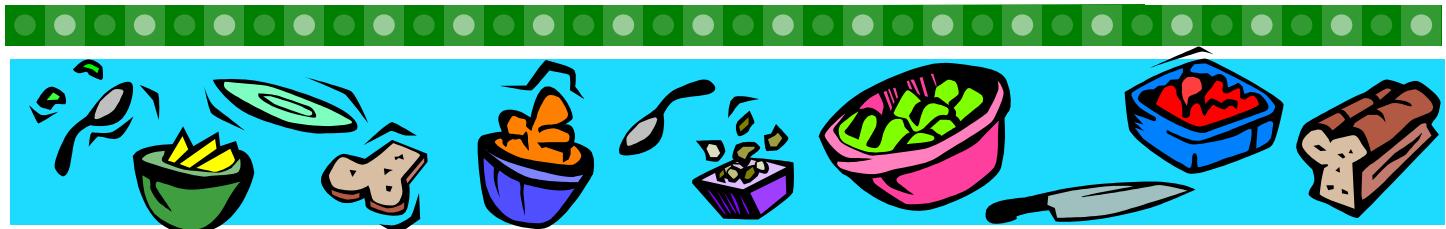
Over 1300 Hosta varieties on display

Over 300 Hosta varieties for sale

We love Hostaphiles!

Visit us when you're in central Wisconsin!

Go <http://www.princetonwi.com>  
for more local events



## SPRING POTLUCK AND WHITE ELEPHANT SWAP

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1:00 pm

**Hosts: April & Pat Murphy in West Chicago.**

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the first NIHS gathering of the year at the West Chicago home of April and Pat Murphy to enjoy the fellowship of visiting with old friends, food from excellent NIHS cooks, and the fun of a swap.

All of us will need to bring our dishes needed to complete a great meal: appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Be sure to contact April by email at [bark1965@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bark1965@sbcglobal.net) or call her at (630) 231-3972 no later than March 10 to let them know you will be coming and what you will bring.

The tool and accessory swap is an NIHS tradition that is lots of fun when you get in the spirit. All you need to participate is a USED garden item you no longer want—DO NOT BUY something new! Here's how it works:

1. Bring a USED garden tool, accessory, yard ornament or any other garden-related item.
2. Wrap or package it in a way that disguises it or misleads observers as to what it is, and bring it along.
3. At the swap, each contributor gets to make a choice from among all the treasures.
4. After everyone has opened a package, re-swaps may occur.
5. If you still don't like what you got, take it home, wrap it up and bring it back next year!

**WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**



#### HOW TO GET THERE:

*Your destination: 30W536 Arbor Lane, West Chicago.*

*From the intersection of IL-59 and IL-64 / North Avenue, go north 0.5 mile then turn left at the stop light onto Diversey Pkwy. St. Andrews Golf Club is on the right. Go west 0.2 mile and turn right onto Norris Ave. Go 600 feet and turn left onto Arbor Lane. Proceed 0.2 miles to the destination on your right.*

*Hope to see you there!*



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Spring Symposium & Sponsor Plant Pick-up

Sunday May 20 at 1 p.m.

Our annual Spring Symposium will be held at the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Mark Dwyer. His topic will be "Companion Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs and Much More for Your Hosta Garden". Mark has been the Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, WI for the past 19 years. He directs the continued maintenance and improvement of this 20 acre botanical resource with a talented grounds staff and many dedicated volunteers. Mark previously worked at Fernwood Botanical Garden (Niles, MI) and as a landscape designer in Appleton, WI. Mark has degrees in landscape architecture (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana) and urban forestry (UW-Stevens Point). Mark's true passion is obtaining, growing, observing and photographing all types of plants. Mark also blogs daily from the gardens at [www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org](http://www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org).

Please see the following page for the NIHS Sponsor Plants that you can order for pickup on May 20 at the Symposium. Also the Sponsor Plant Order Form is on page 6.



Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens

### **Driving Directions:**

Your destination is 395 West Algonquin Road in Des Plaines. Friendship Park Conservatory is located on the south side of Algonquin Road (Route 62), one-half mile east of the intersection with Elmhurst Road (Route 83).

Traveling westbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Elmhurst Road and go north 0.7 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed 0.5 miles to Friendship Park.

Traveling eastbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Arlington Heights Road and go north 0.4 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed 3 miles to Friendship Park. From Route 53, exit at Algonquin Road (Route 62) and proceed east 5.5 miles to Friendship Park.

View of Rotary Botanical Gardens Japanese Garden in spring. Photo from Rotary Botanical Gardens Facebook page.



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Introducing the 2018 NIHS Sponsor Plants

By Lou Horton

The Sponsor Plant Program is designed for the benefit of our members. We selected high-quality cultivars from Jeff Miller's Land of the Giants in Milton, Wisconsin. You will receive larger field grown divisions ready to place in your garden without the need to grow them for months in containers. Also, these sponsor plants are offered at prices below retail for plants of similar size.

This year's offerings are four plants that represent some of the finest, most garden worthy cultivars introduced in the last decade. They are outstanding winners.

**H. World Cup (\$13)** This truly distinctive cultivar is a large upright gold hosta with well cupped leaves featuring excellent substance. A cross of H. Komodo Dragon and H. Super Bowl ,it came from Doug Beilstein's breeding program and was introduced by Mark Zilis who bought it as a seedling. H. World Cup is the Hosta Grower Association's **2018 Hosta of the Year**.

**H. Spartacus (\$13)** H. Spartacus, introduced by Hans Hanson, is a sport of H. Sea Gulf Stream. It features large heart shaped leaves which are rippled at the edges. It is a truly fine garden plant.

**H. School Mouse (\$11)** There are many hosta "mice" and this sport of H. Church Mouse is one of the best. It was introduced by Walters Gardens.

**H. St. Paul (\$10)** This is an eye-catching sport of H. Paul's Glory which features a green center edged with a wide band of gold. Good leaf substance.

**Members only** are eligible to order plants and there is a limit of **one plant per person** for each of the four varieties. Any surplus plants may be offered at the meeting.

**See next page for ORDER FORM**

*H. World Cup*



*H. Spartacus*



*H. School Mouse*



*H. St. Paul*



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**VOLUNTEERS Wanted & Appreciated:**

by Mike Kraus

As mentioned in the President's Letter we need more folks involved with our various activities. **This means you!** Here are some of our opportunities currently available.

**Host for Sept. Potluck & Annual Meeting** - This is typically held the first or second Sunday in September. We need a place to eat & meet - inside or out.

**Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale Committee:**

- ◆ **Show volunteers-** For the last number of years Nancy Bodinet has managed this event's Volunteers, making sure that we are adequately staffed during this two day event at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Nancy has retired from this position and we thank her for her years of service. Nancy will still be a volunteer to work the show.

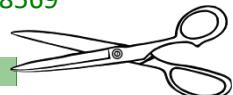
- ◆ **Show setup volunteers-** Nancy also arranged for the volunteers to work on Friday to set-up the hall with tables, fill

the display bottles with water, place the hosta leaves in the bottles and make sure they are labeled. We typically have the same group of individuals work this day. We just need someone to take responsibility for managing this activity.



**Facebook Administrator**- We currently have an opening to manage our Facebook Page. Why not you?

This list is for those positions needed most immediately. We will identify others in a future newsletter or email blast. Please, we really need your assistance. If you are able to help us please contact, Mike Kraus at [kraus6311@comcast.net](mailto:kraus6311@comcast.net) or (815) 356-8569

**Sponsor Plant Order Form**

**Maximum order of 1 of each variety.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

World Cup (\$13) \_\_\_\_\_ Spartacus (\$13) \_\_\_\_\_ School Mouse (\$11) \_\_\_\_\_

St. Paul (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ One of each plant (\$47) \_\_\_\_\_

All orders must be accompanied by a check for the full amount made out to NIHS. If you wish confirmation that your order was received, either include your email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Orders should be sent to Lou Horton 1N735 Ingerton Ave, West Chicago, IL 60185. The order deadline is Friday May 11th.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS



Gary Antonich, Hollywood Bob  
Hosta Farm II, Campton Hills, IL  
847-826-4769  
garyantonich@aol.com

## Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm

Over 1,000 Varieties

WI & IL Locations

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Sat thru Mon May 26, 27 & 28 Open 9 to 4

Other times by appointment.



Mike Krueger, Hollywood  
Bob Hosta Farm, Evansville, WI  
608-490-0195  
hosta5k24@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook! [Hollywood  
Bob Hosta Farm II in IL](#)



Like us on Facebook [Hollywood  
Bob Farm Hosta Farm in WI!](#)

## Uniquely Hostas

Home to over 3,000+ varieties

from new releases to the rare collectibles.

2018 Hours of operation

May 26th-28th– Open House

June 2nd-3rd– Open House

Then every Saturday through August

9am until 4pm

205 Grove Ave  
608-462-4662

Elroy, WI 53929

[www.uniquelyhostas.com](http://www.uniquelyhostas.com)

[uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com](mailto:uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com)

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Rockford & Central Wisconsin Bus Tour Garden Highlights Saturday June 16

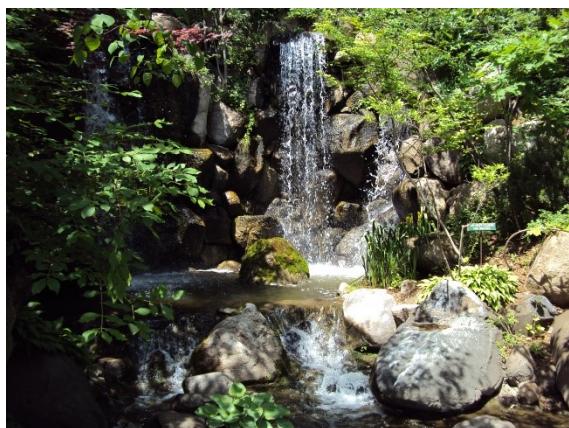
We will tour four wonderful gardens from Princeton Wisconsin to Rockford Illinois. Hosta collectors will have the opportunity to shop at the garden of an active hosta hybridizer who maintains a beautiful display garden. We will also visit the acclaimed Anderson Japanese Garden in Rockford and two private gardens nearby.

We will depart on Saturday June 16 at 7:00 am from Parking Lot L at the southwest corner of Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg near the water tower. This is a change from last year's departure point. All registrants for the tour will be notified of the specific departure point and provided driving directions with their confirmations. We will travel by motor coach. No lunch stop is planned so bring your own lunch (no alcohol please). NIHS will provide limited on-board refreshments as well. We will go regardless of the weather so bring rain gear if the weather looks unfavorable.

**Please arrive at the parking lot by 6:45 a.m. as the bus will leave promptly at 7:00.**

**COST: \$48 for NIHS members and members' spouses which includes admission to the Anderson Garden. \$55 for guests (also includes a one-year NIHS membership). The cost will increase to \$55 for late reservations received after April 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**QUESTIONS: Email Mark Rekoske at [mark.rekoske@gmail.com](mailto:mark.rekoske@gmail.com) or call him at 224-622-1171.**



**Anderson Gardens Waterfall**  
Photo by Mark Rekoske



**See ORDER FORM on next page.**

### Owen and Sue Purvis

Today, Owen and Sue garden (above photo) on a large lot in Princeton, Wisconsin. You may have visited their previous garden in Milwaukee on a bus tour or at the 2013 AHS Convention. "In 2013 we moved approximately 600 mature hostas to the Princeton garden and Elim Hosta Gardens was officially established. In 2014, after we both retired, we moved to Princeton full time. The gardens today have over 1,300 varieties of hostas as well as other sun and shade perennials. We generally have about 300 varieties potted and available for sale. We hold an open garden once each year and we also sell almost every Saturday morning at the Fabulous Princeton Flea Market. We hope you enjoy your visit to Elim Hosta Gardens and perhaps come back to explore other adventures in Princeton."

### Anderson Japanese Garden

Anderson Japanese Gardens is recognized as one of the premier Japanese gardens in North America. Hostas abound along the shaded paths, but the stunning waterfall, koi ponds and Japanese maples are the star attractions of the garden.

Renowned Master Craftsman and designer Hoichi Kurisu transformed the Andersons' swampy backyard along Rockford's Spring Creek into a Japanese-style landscape. From groundbreaking to today, the placement of every rock, alignment of every tree, and layout of all paths has been made with careful consideration by Mr. Kurisu. In 1998, John and Linda Anderson donated the Gardens as a supported organization to the Rockford Rotary Charitable Association. *Continued next page*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Rockford & Central Wisconsin Bus Tour Garden Highlights *continued*

### Tom and Lori Walsh Garden

We have designed our garden (photo top right) to have a peaceful, cohesive feel and to be relatively low maintenance. We favor flowering shrubs over perennials. Texture and foliage are more prevalent than blooms. We selected Hosta varieties for thick leaves and upright forms. Gold, burgundy, and a wide palette of green foliage provide color in our garden. Our garden includes a variety of clematis, grasses, conifers and a bed of Irish moss. Feathered friends are welcomed, watered, and admired here. We've had our share of adventures building this garden and agree with cartoonist Bill Watterson who quipped, "If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life."

### Betty Remington Garden

Proud octogenarian, Betty Remington, has been developing the garden for over 44 years. Her garden



description follows. "I have transformed more than an acre of wilderness surrounding my home into my private nature retreat. A pathway of washed aggregate concrete stepping stones and mulch carve through the many evergreens, Japanese maples, hostas, and other perennials. Black Mexican sand stones, metal sculptures, pottery, statues and large rocks give my yard an Oriental feel . With an artist's eye I have intermingled wildflowers, groundcovers & hosta aiming for burgundy, yellow-green and blue-green plants. I try to always have something blooming".



## Rockford & Wisconsin Bus Tour June 16 Order Form

Please print this page and mail it with your check. Due date is 4/21/18

**QUESTIONS:** Email [marekoske@gmail.com](mailto:marekoske@gmail.com) or call 224-622-1171

Make checks payable to: Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Send to: Mark Rekoske, 10902 Hickory Nut Way, Richmond, IL 60071

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Members      \$48 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest      \$55 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Late Entries      \$55 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Total      \$ \_\_\_\_

***Please provide your email address above.  
Confirmation of your reservation, directions  
to the parking lot and the tour schedule will  
be sent to you via email.***

Note: Registration fees are non-refundable. However, I will create a waiting list to facilitate private transfers if you later find you are unable to attend. No guarantees, but sometimes replacements can be arranged.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Hosta Garden Walk Preview

### June 10 in Sleepy Hollow

Our first hosta garden walk of the season will be at the Sleepy Hollow garden of Linda Lood on **Sunday, June 10, from 2 to 4 PM.**

Linda gardens on a large partially-shaded lot on a quiet street just off Randall Road. She has been gardening for 40 years, 30 of them at her current garden. She started with a blank canvas and they have added and removed



many trees, rocks & plants over the years to achieve their desired look & feel. Linda's first hostas came from a big box store. She brought home a box of six Hosta Aureomarginata and planted them in a row along her front sidewalk. After just two years she divided the hostas and had 12 - and she was hooked. Linda soon joined a local garden club that held a plant sale and acquired many different varieties of plants. The gardening bug had bit and the rest is history.

#### Driving Directions:

*From the east, south or west proceed north 0.3 miles from the intersection of I-90 and Randall Road. Turn right at the second cross street onto Saddle Club Drive for 325 feet and turn right onto Arlington Parkway. Continue onto Pimlico Parkway about 0.5 miles and follow it until it becomes*

*Hilltop Lane. Continue on Hilltop Lane about 0.4 miles to 223 Hilltop Lane on the right side of the street. If traveling from the north follow Randall Road south to the second left after Hwy 72 and turn left onto Joy Lane for 0.6 miles and then turn right onto Hilltop Lane and proceed about 0.5 miles to 223 Hilltop on the left side of the street.*

**Out second hosta garden walk of the season will be at a garden in Lisle recently featured in **Chicagoland Gardening magazine**. The garden walk will be on Sunday, June 24. A garden description, pictures and driving directions will be in our next newsletter. Two additional garden walks will be held on July 8 and July 22. Watch your newsletters for details.**

If you would like to host a future garden walk or, if you know someone who would be willing to host, please contact Mark Rekoske.

*Photos by Linda Lood*



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**GARDENING with Hostas**

By Diana Stoll

**Oakleaf hydrangeas add appeal to hosta gardens**

A garden of hostas fashions a beautifully woven tapestry of blue, green, gold and white from late spring to fall – a breathtaking scene, for sure. The same garden in winter, however, presents another view devoid of interest or color.

Adding shrubs to a hosta garden not only adds appeal year round, they are especially useful when winter turns our beloved hostas to mush. One of my favorites is the oakleaf hydrangea, botanically known as *Hydrangea quercifolia*. Here's why.

*Even with an acre to garden on, plants in my landscape must earn their space.* One hit (or one season) wonders do not impress. Oakleaf hydrangeas deliver four seasons of interest. Large, dark green, lobed leaves resembling those of an oak unfurl in spring and remain attractive all season. Large, cone-shaped flowers bloom in summer. Their fall foliage is spectacular in shades of burgundy, red and orange. Cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark is revealed in winter.

*I adore plants that take care of themselves.* Oakleaf hydrangeas are easy-going shrubs rarely bothered by pests or diseases. Plant them in well-drained soil amended with organic matter. They thrive in slightly moist soil but easily adjust to drier soils and are considerably more drought tolerant than other types of hydrangeas.

Dried  
oakleaf  
hydrangea  
flowers  
add in-  
terest to  
the gar-  
den in  
winter.



Oakleaf hydrangeas are happiest in a spot that receives morning sun but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. Plant them in this situation and be rewarded with the best display of summer flowers and vibrant fall foliage. They are adaptable, however, and will perform nicely in filtered light all day.

Oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on stems that grew the previous year. They rarely need pruning but if they do, prune them right after they finish flowering to avoid cutting off next year's flowers.

*There are cultivars of oakleaf hydrangeas for just about every garden.* Munchkin, Pee Wee, Ruby Slippers and Sikes Dwarf are smaller varieties, growing up to 4 feet tall and wide. Ruby Slippers gets my vote for the best of the compact cuties. It is prized for its flowers that emerge white, quickly turn pink, and then mature to ruby red and its outstanding mahogany red fall foliage.

The Gatsby series of oakleaf hydrangeas offers many candidates. Gatsby Gal and Gatsby Star both grow 5 to 6 feet tall and wide. Gatsby Gal flaunts very large pure white flowers that age to soft pink.

*continued next page*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

# GARDENING

## with Hostas

By Diana Stoll    continued

Gatsby Star also sports white blooms, but its flowers are double. Gatsby Pink grows 6 to 8 feet tall and wide with white flowers that quickly turn rich pink.

Jetstream, Snow Queen and Snowflake grow from 5 to 8 feet tall and wide. Jetstream is the newest member of this group. It grows 5 to 6 tall and 4 to 5 feet wide with sturdy stems able to support its large flowers without flopping.

Giants of the family, Alice and Harmony can reach a height and spread of 10 feet. Folks either love or hate Harmony. They love it for its traffic-stopping, incredibly full heads of white flowers or they hate it for those traffic-stopping, incredibly full heads of white flowers that droop on stems unable to hold them.

*Diana Stoll is a garden writer who writes a weekly column for the Chicago Daily Herald. She blogs regularly at [www.gardenwithdiana.com](http://www.gardenwithdiana.com).*



Proven Winners Oakleaf Hydrangea 'Gatsby Gal'



Rich's Foxwillow  
Pines Nursery, Inc.

### Benefit for Bolivia

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018  
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.

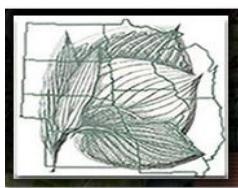
Hundreds of Hosta varieties always available! Lovely shade-tolerant conifers and Japanese maples make great companion plants for hostas. Tour the nursery and see unusual conifers, ginkgos, Japanese maples, European beeches, and more.

March 21 - November 16: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday  
November 17 - March 22: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday

11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098  
815-338-7442  
[coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com](mailto:coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com)  
[www.richsfoxwillowpines.com](http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com)



The  
american  
**HOSTA**  
SOCIETY  
[www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)



Midwest Region Hosta Society

Visit: [www.midwesthostasociety.org/](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/)

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CANTIGNY PARK HOSTA GARDEN?**

By Barbara King

**Construction**, that's what! Here's what will be going on around the Cantigny Park Hosta Garden as soon as the ground is workable enough for crews to get back to work this spring:

A new building with restrooms will be started immediately south of the hosta garden. That area will become a secondary point of entry to the park because it is close to the popular First Division Museum.

Existing paths on the east and west side of the garden will be removed and reset, and a hedge is to be planted along the west side of the garden. New permanent paths will eventually be built through the garden between the new east and west bordering paths.

Several of the mature maple trees just east of the current eastern border path will be removed, and the hosta garden will gain some ground where the trees and the current path were. The border path will be put in farther to the east.



**Volunteers**, we still need you to help maintain the garden this season, and Cantigny will still require training before you can work. When their training schedule is available I will notify everyone who volunteered last year as well



as those of you who have told me you want to be added to our roster this year. We would love to add any other NIHS members who want to help. We hope that by the end of the 2018 growing season, we will be able to plant the 50 or so hostas that Gary Antonich has been holding for us for more than a year!

To volunteer, or if you have any questions about the Cantigny garden, just contact me at [bkh430@att.net](mailto:bhk430@att.net) or [630-879-2263](tel:630-879-2263).

Finally, anyone from NIHS who has worked as a volunteer since we started the garden probably worked with Corny Myroup. He was our main hands-on contact during our workdays and was a huge help to us. Since we were there only once every two weeks, Corny—a hosta lover himself—sometimes took it upon himself to do things that he felt needed to be done between our visits, like watering during a dry spell. He was also the one who applied Deadline and Nemakill to control hosta pests. I thought you might like to know that Corny has retired. I will miss him. If anyone wants to wish him well, you can send a card to him at Cantigny Park Horticultural Department, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, and it will be forwarded to him.

I'm looking forward to seeing lots of you in the Cantigny Park Hosta Garden this summer!

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## December Holiday Party @ Kerry Perry's



"Marvelous" was the theme for our December 2017 Holiday Party at Kerry Perry's lovely home in West Chicago. Kerry is pictured above right on the right with April Murphy. Marvelous weather, food dishes, décor and friendship.

Photos by Ron Asselborn



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## December Holiday Party

@ Kerry Perry's *continued*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**The Jan Smith Story**

By Jim King

**Jan Smith**, whom many of you know, makes concrete stepping stones and birdbaths. Indeed many of us have purchased a lot of the things she sold at our Winter Scientific Meetings and other gatherings of NIHS folks. And those who joined after Jan and Earl retired will remember their hosting at Windsor Park in Carol Stream our spring potluck meeting in March of 2015. By moving to Windsor Park Retirement Community, Jan believed she could not continue her work chiefly because there was no place for her concrete mixer.

When I talked to Jan at our recent NIHS 25th Anniversary celebration, she surprised me saying she has begun casting again, only now **without** a concrete mixer. Naturally I asked how she could do it, and Jan blew me away when she said she now mixes by hand in a large wheel-

barrow—wearing out pairs of gloves at a rapid pace. I had a hard time believing that this comparatively small woman could actually do that—though I knew she is

stronger than one would guess, as I learned when I offered to help her haul unsold stock from one of our Winter Scientific Meetings to her van.

Jan first started her concrete work around 40 years ago to help raise funds for a church project. Later she continued it for her mission-giving fund, and as sales grew it turned into a back yard hobby/business which benefited her charitable projects *and* her retirement fund. She gradually built a following. Customers were sad when they found out that she was retiring.

Now in Jan's retirement there is a new chapter beginning. I wondered why she took up the craft again. Her



*Jan Smith mixing by hand her concrete stepping stones.*

*Jan Smith photo.*

answer was that she made them to help raise money for the CROP Walk to end hunger, in which she has walked 35 years. Her motto was "Handmade for Hunger". Sales of her stepping stones at a summer craft fair encouraged her to make more. Customers bought them for themselves and as gifts.

Jan continues to use her hobby to raise funds for worthy causes such as hunger, homelessness and the environment, all areas in which she has long been an active volunteer. She does everything by hand, and each stepping stone is one-of-a-kind. Designs include ginkgo, Japanese maple, pine, oak, grasses and vines. She may be contacted at

[jansmithatwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:jansmithatwindsor@gmail.com).



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Introducing Our New NIHS Board Members



**Janet Simpson, Director - At - Large**

A short story:

I came about loving hostas by volunteering to help Margaret Eyre in her efforts to raise money for Heifer International. My hostas seemed to increase from there. I have been gardening for over 40 years, starting with mostly vegetable and perennial beds. Looking forward to helping out on the board of NIHS.



**Nancy Huck, Director - At - Large**

My bio:

I always liked gardening, I just keep planting stuff. As everything grew, more shade followed, and that's when all the hostas happened. I have a degree in ornamental horticulture from College of DuPage. I worked at several garden centers for 20 years.

## Oh No, Snow! Where did my Hostas Go?

By June Vandervest

Finally a winter with a good snow cover! The "Value of Snow" is not always understood by the layman, but most gardeners know and appreciate several inches of the white stuff as Mother Nature's winter blanket for their plants. Snow acts as an insulator, protects plants from the extreme temperature changes, freezing, thawing and wind damage. Savvy gardeners may even have placed mounds of dry leaves or evergreen branches over their perennial and Hosta beds as added insurance; just in case the snow cover was non-existent or negligible. This year that was not a problem and our plants are sleeping under a generous blanket of snow. The moisture this snow will provide in the spring will ensure that plants get a good start when they begin to stir as they are warmed by the spring thaw. In my garden, St. Fiacre is patiently guarding my Hostas and dreaming of the potential of next year's plants.



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Heirloom Hostas

By Bob Solberg

Nancy and I are into vegetable gardening. Being hosta collectors we have taken a similar approach to our vegetable garden. So as collectors we have found that most of the diversity in vegetables comes not from hundreds of new cultivars introduced every year, like hostas, but the reintroduction of heirloom varieties. All this got me thinking about heirloom hostas. Most of us "serious" hosta folks always want to know what's new. For me that is unnamed seedlings in a hybridizer's garden.

For long time collectors it is the plants we are offering in the nursery this year; but for folks new to hostas almost any hosta is new to them except the one that came with their new house. As with vegetables, to them old hostas may be just as interesting as the newest introductions. In my search for heirloom hostas, I went back to our old hosta lists from the 1980's, almost 30 years ago, believe it or not. I chose 20 hostas that would have been found in any good hosta collection at that time, were reasonably inexpensive, and were rugged performers in the garden. There were



*Hosta 'August Moon'*

blue ones, gold ones, green ones and variegated ones. There were all sizes from large to minis. It's a pretty good diversity. Some of these plants have not been surpassed, although most hosta snobs like me do look down our noses at them. In any case they would still make a good beginning for a collection, after all it was how we long time hosta growers all fell in love with hostas in the first place. So, here is the annotated list.

Most heirloom vegetables have some flaws and that is why we generally grow the new hybrids. While these hostas may each have flaws, they are all still worthy of a place in your gardens.

*Continued next page*



*Hosta 'Gold Standard'*



*Hosta 'Antioch'*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Heirloom Hostas

continued

**'Allan P. McConnell'** This small flat hosta make a perfect border, if you border your beds.

**'Antioch'** A large hosta with a showy white margin. Best early in the season.

**'August Moon'** Large hosta with bright color and attractive flowers. Best of the early gold hostas.

**'Blue Cadet'** Good substance with pretty heart-shaped leaves in neat clumps. Fast multiplier.

**'Chartreuse Wiggles'** A cute little hosta with very narrow chartreuse leaves that are highly ruffled especially if grown in some sun. It was a mini before minis were the rage.

**'Elegans'** Large round cupped and puckered leaves, blue-green in color.

**'Frances'** Pure white margins on the deep green leaves.

**'Frances William'** 'Elegans' with a broad gold margin. Once a "must have" variety.

**'Gold Edger'** Chartreuse color early. Perfect match for 'Blue Cadet'.

**'Gold Standard'** Yellow centered plant that once was also

*Hosta 'Frances Williams'*



*Hosta 'Krossa Regal'*

a "must have".

**'Golden Tiara'** Small gold edged hosta. Fast grower. Was a breakthrough in it's day.

**'Kabitan'** Delicate arched form and purple flowers makes it a great border plant.

**'Krossa Regal'** Large upright with a vase shaped. Soft blue grey leaves.

**'Halcyon'** First in a line of smaller blue plants. Not fussy about where you plant it.

**'Lemon Lime'** Small yellow (lemon) hosta that turns green (lime) in summer.

**H. montana 'Aureomarginata'** Showy vase shaped plant with green and gold leaves.

**'Royal Standard'** Upright form with a pretty shade of green. Good substance.

**'Undulata Albomarginata'** One of the most sun tolerant variegated hostas. Probably free for the asking.

Sometimes looking back at our roots can remind us where we have been and that the good old days really were pretty good.

*This is an edited version of an article first printed in the fall 2014 issue of 'The Greenhill Gossip'. Photos Marta Cepel, Ontario Hosta Society. Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.*



## BITS AND PIECES

### **Save the Date, March 11 for Spring Pot-luck at**

April and Pat Murphy's in West Chicago. See details on page 3.

**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 [marekoske@gmail.com](mailto:marekoske@gmail.com).

**Host Needed** for Sept. Potluck & Annual Mtg - we need a place to eat & meet! Contact Mike Kraus.

### **Garden & Hosta Articles and Photos**

wanted for our newsletter. Perhaps you visited a special garden or hosta nursery that you can share with your hosta friends. Contact Ron Asselborn. [rasselborn5@gmail.com](mailto:rasselborn5@gmail.com).

**Sign up** to be a National AHS Hosta Display Garden volunteer at Cantigny. Details on page 13.

**Hosta Leaf Display** volunteers at Chicago Botanic Garden needed June 2 & 3. See details page 6.

**Facebook Administrator** needed. If you love hostas & Facebook this one's for you! Contact Mike Kraus.

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 4 newsletters.

Email us at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com). Call Stevie at 630-377-9306. Visit our website @ [www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org) and visit us on Facebook.

## New Member Welcome!!

*A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!*

- \* **Scot & Melanie Campbell, Wilmette**
- \* **Joseph & Monica Jansen, Gurnee**
- \* **William & Mary Lloyd, Lloyd's Landscaping, Genoa**
- \* **Jeffery & Janet Wooley, Hinsdale**
- \* **Jill Ziegler, Glen Ellyn**



## 2018 Hosta of the Year is 'World Cup'

The American Hosta Growers Association assembles a list of the best-of-the-best hostas annually and chooses one variety as "Hosta of the Year." Each Hosta of the Year is acknowledged for being unique, easy to grow, and widely available. These plants are the cornerstones of most hosta collectors' gardens, making them a good choice for beginning gardeners and experienced collectors alike.

The 2018 Hosta of the Year is Hosta '**World Cup**', a spectacular bright gold hybrid of 'Komodo Dragon' x 'Super Bowl' hybridized by Doug Beilstein of Mansfield, Ohio. It is a large hosta with upright petioles and deeply cupped leaves. It appears to be reaching for the sky. Obviously it has inherited the very best traits from each of its great parents. It is listed as growing to 19" tall with a spread of 39". However, as it has matured in gardens across the country, it has proven to be much larger. The registered size of the evenly puckered leaves is 9"x6" and almost every one of them neatly faces to the center of the clump.

Want to brighten up your shade garden? Add Hosta 'World Cup'. Note: You can order this hosta thru the Sponsor Plant program described on page 5.

### **Hosta 'World Cup', 2018 Hosta of the Year**



### **Hosta 'Lakeside Elfin Fire'**

This beautiful photo of **Hosta 'Lakeside Elfin Fire'** was posted by C. K. Choo in November, 2017 to the Hosta Mini & Small Group on Facebook.

*H. 'Lakeside Elfin Fire'* was hybridized by Mary Chastain. It is classified as a true miniature with leaves measuring only 2.5" x .75". Clump diameter is registered at 10" and clump height is listed at 5". Scapes measure only 6-8" high, making them pleasingly proportional to the overall plant size.

Mary Chastain has provided us a wealth of great new cultivars from her unique and prolific hybridizing program over the years. Although she no longer hybridizes, her influence still looms large. In 2006, Mary was named the recipient of AHS's most prestigious honor for excellence in hybridizing hostas, the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award.

Mary introduced over 200 other hosta cultivars including *H. 'Lakeside Black Satin'*, *H. 'Lakeside Blue Sophistication'*, *H. Lakeside 'Coal Miner'*, *H. Lakeside 'Dragonfly'*, *H. Lakeside 'Kaleidoscope'*, *H. 'Lakeside Lollipop'*, *H. 'Lakeside Reflecting Glass'*, and *H. 'Lakeside Zing Zang'*.

*Reprinted as an edited version from the Georgia Hosta Notes, January 2018 newsletter.*

## My Very Tiny Garden

Barbara Nace

The long story: Eight years ago, I was ready to move after more than 40 years in my house. However, my hostas were resisting. While most of the hostas in my large collection were in containers and thus portable, there was no place for them at my new house. (In fact, there wasn't even place for me, but that's another story.) The house was new construction and not-yet completed, and landscaping was yet to be. Even worse, the garden would be located in sun.



Fortunately, my friend Mike Flagg showed up at my now-sold house with a flatbed truck that we covered completely with potted hostas to be transported to overwinter at his house in the woods. They would remain

with Mike until I figured this all out. The following spring, foundation landscaping was completed at my new house: shamrock hollies, dwarf winterberries, a dwarf Colorado blue spruce, a dwarf witch hazel, and oakleaf hydrangeas. I gave half of the hostas in my collection to Mike and brought the rest to their new home.

The short story: I've found somewhat secluded, shady spots for many hostas, mostly behind the shamrock hollies. That means that these hostas can easily be seen only from inside the house and the porch, not from the sunny front of the house. Three large hostas are visible from the front, and they're tolerating way too much sun. I took the accompanying photos in mid-July, not the season of greatest hosta beauty. In fact, the large 'Krossa Regal' is now only bluish (it's the oldest hosta here, at least 20 years old).

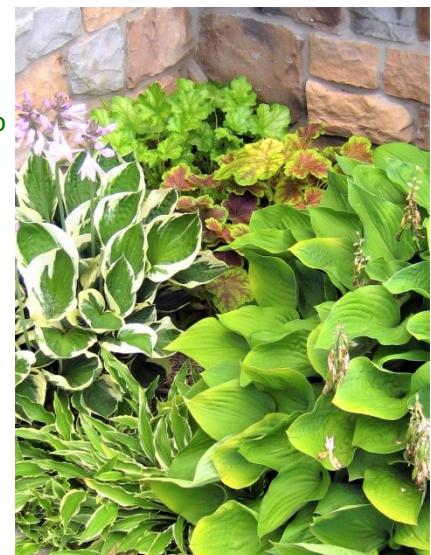
There are multiples of others.



Pics clockwise from above: Hostas peeking out from corner; Front porch corner; Lovely H. 'Stiletto'; Patio pots.

'Stiletto' is the most vigorous grower. It wants to be everywhere in the garden! 'Whirlwind' has lost most of its whirl, but is otherwise a nice plant. 'Fire Island' is very happy here. 'Francee' thrives. 'Feather Boa' would like to be moved.

'Minuteman' is reliably handsome, and a blue/green plant whose label has been removed by evil squirrels emerges every year looking like a lush, tightly massed bridal bouquet. One of the large variegated hostas has been nibbled on by deer, and rabbits are eating the blossoms. Must be a tasty plant. Squirrels also swiped these labels, so I don't know the hosta's name.



The even shorter story: I've kept some hostas in pots on the patio on the back side of the house. It gets enough shade there to please some blues. It also pleases me to see these plants from the adjacent sunroom. All in all, the stories have been happy ones for both me and the hostas. Article from the Delaware Hosta Society newsletter Sept 2017.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**American Hosta Society****50th Anniversary Convention***"Phifty in Philly" June 20 - 23, 2018*

The [Delaware Valley Hosta Society](#) presents the 2018 Convention, marking the 50th anniversary of both the founding of the [AHS](#) and its first convention, which took place near Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, rich in history, artistic culture, and legendary sports, has also been declared [America's Garden Capital](#). Topping the crown of garden gems is the fabulous [Longwood Gardens](#), with its completely renovated Main Fountain Garden and shady Hillside Garden. As a special treat to celebrate the 50th anniversary, we are pleased to be taking *everyone* to Longwood for a fantastic fountain show! As well, the convention will be jam packed with everything you expect: outstanding private gardens featuring the best in hostas and companion plants, a Hosta Show and seedling competition, a bevy of vendors and speakers, and the best of Philly music, food, and hospitality.

Click on this link for details. <https://www.ahs2018philly.org/>

**MRHS 2018 Convention**

Peoria, IL - *"Hostas Play in Peoria"* July 12 - 14, 2018

Click this link for details. <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/PeoriaConvention.shtml>

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## NIHS Website

by Mike Kraus



The NIHS Website, what is it, where is it, why should I find it and use it? I hope we adequately answer these questions in this article. We believe it to be a quality presentation with a wealth of information and an invaluable RESOURCE.

A few years ago, we updated the Northern Illinois Hosta Society ("NIHS") website. At that time, we tried to make it a bit more current. We present the NIHS Calendar of Events, we added pictures from our various activities and we added links to other information sources. Below we briefly provide a "road map" of what is available on our website. If you use the internet and have not yet visited the NIHS website, we **STRONGLY** encourage you to do so.

The NIHS website may be viewed on the internet by going to: [www.northernillinoishostasociety.org](http://www.northernillinoishostasociety.org). Once you have navigated here you will see 7 Buttons/Tabs across the top of the page below our name.

**Home:** Here you are welcomed to our website. There is a brief slideshow as well as a few buttons to click that are shortcuts to other pages. One "button" navigates you to a downloadable membership form to join NIHS. A second "button" takes you directly to the NIHS Facebook page and a third takes you to a page where you can contact us via email. We are also adding a section for **Upcoming Events**.

All other events will be located on the NIHS Calendar Page

**About Us:** On this page, we explain who we are and we present a map that approximates the

areas that we cover.

**Cantigny:** This "sub-tab" details our relationship with Cantigny Park in Wheaton and we provide a link to the Cantigny website.

### Calendar:

Each year we hold a number of events. This is the place to go to keep abreast of upcoming events.

**Membership:** We explain the benefits of joining NIHS and make available a downloadable Membership Application form.

**Newsletters:** We make available a number of our older newsletters. All of our "current" newsletters are on a hidden page only available to current members.

**Officers:** We present our current Board of Directors with contact info and list past Presidents of NIHS.

**Resources:** This tab provides you with links to other hosta related pages such as the American Hosta Society (AHS), the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) and Educational resources like the Hosta Library and Hosta Registrar.

*Continued on next page*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### NIHS Website by Mike Kraus continued

We have Links to other Chicago area botanical gardens and we have included 4 Instructional videos.

Hosta of the Year: Here you will find the name of each hosta since the inception of the selection of Hosta of the Year (HOTY). You will also find the current year announcement and any information from the American Hosta Growers Association.

Tip of the Month: a timely garden tip for your garden.

Articles of Interest: a group of articles that our members might find useful as they maintain or plan their gardens.

Book References: We list a number of popular hosta books that you may find interesting and useful.

Member Vendors: A number of our vendors sell hostas, companion plants and landscaping services. We provide links to their websites or list their contact phone numbers for your use.

**Gallery:** Over the years we have a collection of photos of our various events presented by year.

**Contact Us:** Have a question or want to give us updated member information, just fill out the Form and click SUBMIT.

Still have questions about the NIHS website? Contact Stevie Meginness or Mike Kraus by using the Contact Us Tab or email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com.

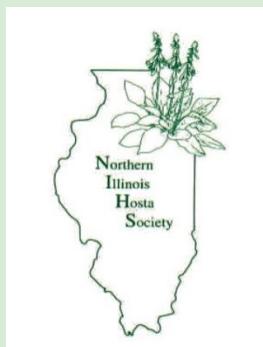
### 2018 NIHS Calendar of Events

- Mar 11, Spring Potluck & Garden Tool Swap, West Chicago
- May 20, Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup, Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines
- June 2-3, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden
- June 10, Hosta Garden Walk #1, Sleepy Hollow
- June 16, Annual Bus Tour to Rockford & Central Wisconsin
- June 20-23, AHS Convention 50th Anniversary, Valley Forge, PA
- June 24, Hosta Garden Walk #2, Lisle
- July 8, Hosta Garden Walk #3, Bensenville
- July 12-14, MRHS Convention in Peoria, IL
- July 22, Hosta Garden Walk #4, Glen Ellyn
- Aug 12, Annual Hosta Auction & Plant Sale Fundraiser, Community House, Hinsdale
- Sept TBD, Potluck & Annual Meeting
- Oct TBD, Fall Symposium
- Dec 9, Holiday Party, Crystal Lake

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.



*Our 2017 Hosta Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Gardens was a great educational event! Hundreds of plant lovers inspected hosta leaves and learned about growing hostas.*



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*Linda  
Lood's  
garden  
will be  
open for  
a Hosta  
Garden  
Walk on  
June 10.*

