

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 105

NOVEMBER 2018

2018/ 2019 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Dec 9, Holiday Party at Kraus, Haus, Crystal Lake**
- **Feb 2, 2019, MRHS Winter Hosta Symposium in Brookfield/ Milwaukee, WI**
- **March Spring Potluck, TBD**
- **Late April/May. Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup, TBD**
- **June 12 - 15, 2019, AHS & MRHS Convention, Green Bay, WI**

President's Letter

Over the past week our hosta season has quickly ended. Last week I was cleaning up hostas leaves that were still upright before Lenny and I drove to Maryland to visit our 3-month old granddaughter. We came back and all the hosta leaves are now down and for the most part invisible because of all of the oak and hickory leaves that have fallen. Just another "opportunity" to spend some time outside working in the yard. Some of these "opportunities" are getting more and more difficult each year that I am on this earth. Ok, my pity party is over.



In reflecting on 2018, once again NIHS has had a productive year. We have had a nice complement of activities for our members. I want to thank our Board members and volunteers for making all of this possible. Our National Display Garden at Cantigny continues to grow and improve. Thank you to Barbara King and her group of volunteers and Cantigny's Craig Kruckenberg and his staff. This is really a quality garden presentation. If you have not already visited the garden, please add it to your to-do list for 2019.

As many of you have heard we just lost a dear member of our group. Sherrie Hughes passed away and she

Continued next page

In this Issue:

President's Letter	1
Calendar at a Glance	1
In Memoriam S. Hughes	1
Holiday Party	3
Fall Potluck Annual Mtg	4
Fall Symposium	4
Vendor Ads	5 & 6
In Memorial R. Nicholson	6
Fall Symposium Cantigny	7
Officers & Directors	8



In Memoriam Sherrie Hughes



Sherrie Hughes of Roselle, died unexpectedly Sunday, Nov. 4. Sherrie was born and grew up in Madison, Wis. She was a recent Board member of NIHS. She loved plants and her garden, and was also an active member of the Hoffman Estates Garden Club. She was always smiling, cheerful, and eager to help. We will miss her gentle ways. Please keep Tony Kwiatkowski and Sherrie's family in your thoughts and prayers.

President's Letter continued

will be missed. Sherry and Tony Kwiatkowski recently retired from the NIHS Board as co-Chairs of Hospitality. We offer our condolences to Tony and Sherrie's family. Also, we just learned of Bob Nicholson's passing unexpectedly. See more info on page 6 regarding Bob and NIHS.

Congratulations to Jack Barta for receiving the 2018 DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award from the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. This is awarded to a person or local society for contributions to benefit the Midwest Region. Some of the previous NIHS members to receive this award include Floyd Rogers (2009), Tom Micheletti (2012), Lou Horton (2016) and Mark Rekoske (2017).

As we look forward into 2019, the calendar will have a new/redefined event. Historically each year the Midwest Regional Hosta Society ("MRHS") held their Winter Conference in Chicago. After a one year hiatus the event has been redesigned and relocated to the Sheraton Milwaukee/Brookfield hotel. NIHS member Jack Barta is putting on the MRHS Winter Conference in Milwaukee on February 2nd. Details can be found on the MRHS website at <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml>.

Next up on the NIHS 2018 Calendar is our annual Holiday Party. The party this year is set for December 9th at the Kraus Haus in Crystal Lake. Lenny and I invite you to come to Crystal Lake to enjoy time with your hosta friends and talk about your "BIG" hosta stories of 2018 and year's past or discuss your plans for 2019. Our Greater Swiss Mountain dogs, Maddux and Twist, will not be present as they will go to Camp that day. Look for the Holiday Party details on page 3. Please bring a non-perishable food donation to the party that will help some of our less fortunate neighbors enjoy their holiday season. Lenny and I look



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forward to seeing you and would like to send best wishes to you all for the holiday season.

After the Holiday Party, the next NIHS calendar event is our March Spring Potluck. As we have recently found it difficult to find hosts, the Board has discussed the possibility of moving this event to a restaurant or conference center location. This would continue to be a social gathering but would involve a cost to attend. Before we continue down this path, the Board would like to hear your thoughts. What do you want in a March social event? Please give us your comments and tell us what you think. Email your comments to NI.Hosta@gmail.com.

Hosta-la-vista

Mike Kraus

Holiday Party Food & Fun Sunday Dec. 9

Our much anticipated annual NIHS Holiday Party is rapidly approaching on **Sunday Dec 9**. Plan to join in the fun! Festivities will begin at **1:00 pm** at Lenny & Mike Kraus' home in West Chicago. Their home will be a festive Kraus Haus! Do plan to come and enjoy the company of NIHS friends and a wonderful meal in the beautiful surroundings at Kraus Haus (see photo top right).

Excellent NIHS cooks always contribute remarkable food that never disappoints. Everyone who comes should bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. The main dish and tableware will be provided. Please contact Lenny ASAP at 815- 356-8569 or email: kraus6311@comcast.net to let her know that you are coming and which dish you will bring.

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

HOW TO GET THERE: Your destination: 6311 Carrie Ct, Crystal Lake, IL



Directions: From the Intersection of Rte. 31 and Rte. 14 (Northwest Highway) Go East onto Rte. 14 for 0.2 miles. At stoplight at Sands Road turn left (North) and drive 0.6 miles.

At Wynwood Drive turn right (East) & go 0.5 miles. Before driving up the Wynwood hill turn right onto Lindsay Lane. Then immediately turn left onto Carrie Court.

We are the 5th house on the left as you drive up the hill. Carrie Ct ends as a cul-de-sac for additional parking. Park on the left (North) side of the street.

Hope to see you there!



2018 Fall Potluck and Annual Meeting



Billie Childress hosted our Fall Potluck & Annual Meeting on a lovely September Sunday. We elected officers for new terms . Our only new Board Member is Judi Asselborn who takes over the Hospitality Chair from Sherrie Hughes & Tony Kwiatkowski. Folks loved strolling thru Billie's lovely gardens. The weather was perfect.



Pics courtesy of Nancy Huck





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Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery, Inc.

Hosta La Vista Sale

Saturday, September 8, 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.

Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery is celebrating 30 years in business as well as the upcoming retirement of the owners, Rich & Susan Eyre! This is the final Benefit for Bolivia. 2018 also marks 50 years since Rich first worked with the Peace Corps in Bolivia.

8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Saturday

11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098
815-338-7442

coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com



In Memoriam

Bob Nicholson

NIHS member Bob Nicholson passed away recently. Bob was an NIHS member since 2006 and one of our Member Vendors. He was the owner of Pyramid Gardens, a landscape design firm and also very active member of Garden Clubs of IL. Our sympathies to his family.



2019 American Hosta Society Convention
June 12 -15, 2019
Green Bay, WI

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A joint convention with the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Hosted by the Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin



Fall Symposium @ Cantigny
Integrating Natives with Hostas



Kelsay Shaw, owner of Possibility Place Nursery in Monee Illinois, shared his views and convictions on the benefits of incorporating native plants into our hosta gardens. Kelsay's message was well received by the members as were the cookies and other refreshments. Another gorgeous fall day!



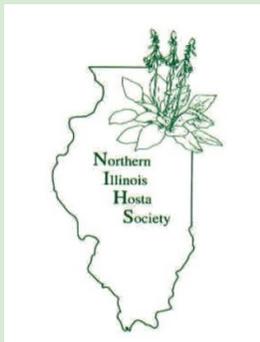
Pics by Ron Asselborn



NIHS Membership Secretary

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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.



Pics by June Vandervest & Ron Asselborn



Cantigny Crew workers clockwise from top left Nancy Huck & June Vandervest in late August, Janet Simpson & Nancy Huck by the rock in November, & Sharon Roddan & Barbara King raking leaves on November 15 - the last work day.



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