

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 109

AUGUST 2019

## 2019/2020 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Aug 11, Hosta & Plant Auction, Community House, Hinsdale**
- **Sept 15, Fall Potluck & Annual Mtg, Campton Hills**
- **Oct, Fall Symposium , TBD**
- **Dec 8, Holiday Party, Lombard**
- **Feb 1, 2020, MRHS Winter Hosta Symposium in Brookfield/ Milwaukee, WI**
- **June 10-13 2020 AHS Convention, Minneapolis, MN**
- **July 16-18, 2020 MRHS Convention hosted by NIHS, Lisle**



Do you have these hostas? See more info on page 20.

## President's Letter

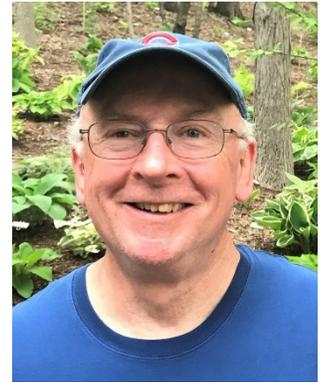
Hi folks & welcome to summer. July brought us another two great garden walks and our annual bus tour. I hope that all who participated enjoyed themselves. See pics from these events in pages following. Many thanks to Nancy Huck and Mark Rekoske for organizing these activities.

We also experienced extremely hot weather with the heat index soaring to over 100 degrees. I hope you have kept your garden watered appropriately. I have been frantically weeding and watering to remove the nasties and to keep the good plants healthy.

July 12<sup>th</sup> was the Dedication Ceremony for our AHS National Display Garden at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. Members of Cantigny and NIHS made brief presentations followed by our keynote speaker, Mark Zilis. Mark provided his humorous AHS Convention anecdotes and described several existing National Display gardens around the country. Mark asked the audience "Which state has the most National Display Gardens?" No, it isn't Illinois. We are tied with a few other states with three. Wisconsin has the most with four National Display Gardens. Also, the garden in Dubuque has the most cultivars at over 900.

Coming up in August is our Annual Hosta and Plant Auction on August

*Continued next page*



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## President's Letter *continued*

11<sup>th</sup>. This is our annual fundraiser that is also open to the public. It is a fun event! I strongly urge you to dig and donate several newer-variety hosta plants and to participate in the auction. Mark Zilis has agreed to be our auctioneer again this year. Please see the following article for details.

Things begin to wind down a bit as we get into September. Our Annual Meeting this year is once again being hosted by Judi and Ron Asselborn on September 15<sup>th</sup>. During the business part of the meeting we will be electing officers and approving the 2020 Operating Budget. You can also wander through Judi and Ron's lovely garden. In October we will have our Fall Symposium. Details are being worked out now and you will be notified once they are finalized. We will finish out the year with our annual Holiday Party on December 8th. This year's host will be Arlene and Bruce Solyom.

May your garden be colorful,

May you hostas be full,

May your slugs and deer damage be few,

Hosta-la-vista

**Mike Kraus**



Sample of your new permanent name tag.



Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanical Gardens



Open House and Hosta Walk  
June 7-8-9

Artisan Market—September 7

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

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## Our New Name Tags

By Stevie Meginness

We have had many requests from new and veteran members for permanent name tags to wear at all our events. It is a way for all members to learn new names and attach a name to a face.

We have fulfilled your name tag request. Some name tags were distributed at our recent Dedication held at Cantigny Park and on the annual bus trip. The rest will be sent by mail to your home address. These name tags are placed in a vinyl pouch with a bulldog clip on the back of each. Also, you may place them on a lanyard to wear around your neck. They are yours to keep, so please take good care of your name tag. Place it in your car glove box or in your house where you will remember to wear it to all NIHS functions.

## Annual Hosta Auction & Plant Sale Sunday August 11

### Fun With Hostas!

Our annual NIHS auction, plant sale and raffle is our only annual fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success. The auction will be held **on Sunday August 11** from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please plan to be there to support the NIHS and have fun bidding on plants that may be hard to find elsewhere.



Extraordinary bargains are always a possibility. Once again, hosta expert Mark Zilis will serve as our auctioneer. Bidding will be friendly but fast-paced and things could get exciting. There will be a sale of a number of plants at low fixed prices for bargain hunters. We will offer raffle tickets with some mature hostas and other items as prizes. **Refreshments** will be provided.

The auction will be held at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St in Hinsdale from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Plan to arrive at 12:30 pm** to donate your plants, register to bid and preview the plants you will want to bid on.



Your participation and the addition of attendees from outside NIHS are **critical** to the success of the auction. The more bidders we have, the more interesting the bidding becomes.

We need your donations of potted plants (hostas and companion plants) to be delivered by about 12:30 pm to the Community House. We are looking for **high quality, pest & disease-free plants, especially newer varieties or hard to find older plants that you would be happy to have in your garden**. Dig or divide your plants as soon as possible so they look good for the auction. Donations from our members make up the majority of the plants auctioned, but we hope for some donated plants from vendors. Our goal is for a record number of plants and auction proceeds! Here are some other ways you can help make the auction a success:

- \* **bring a non-member friend to the auction**
- \* **copy this page and share with your gardener friends and plant club members**

#### Driving Directions:

From Ogden Ave/IL 34 in Hinsdale turn South on York Road which turns into Garfield Ave and continue to Eighth St. Turn Right to the Community House at 415 W. 8th St. on the right.



## Fall Potluck & Annual Meeting Sept 15 - Be There!

Fun & Friends are integral to our annual Fall get-together. The Annual Meeting--the occasion for approving the 2020 budget and program, and electing officers--will be on **September 15 at 1:00 pm** in Campton Hills where our hosts will be Judi & Ron Asselborn (See directions below.)

We begin with a **potluck** lunch that's a treat because of the excellent offerings of many talented NIHS cooks. This is also a welcome opportunity to visit old NIHS friends and meet new ones.

Then a brief Business Meeting will follow at which time we will present the 2020 Budget for discussion and your approval. The final part of the business meeting will be the election of officers. We will be electing the following officers for a two year term: **President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.**



The Nominating Committee led by Linda Hefferin is working to develop a slate of candidates for the open positions. Their recommendations will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting. This is YOUR society. Step up and participate in the fun. Volunteer for one of the board positions up for election this year. Contact Linda Hefferin at [linda@hefferin.com](mailto:linda@hefferin.com).

**Please contact Judi Asselborn by Sept 9** to let her know that you are coming and the dish you will bring to pass: appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. Judi is at 630-587-1340 or [jasselborn5@gmail.com](mailto:jasselborn5@gmail.com). Main dish, beverages, and tableware are provided. **PLEASE COME – LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

**DIRECTIONS to 39W925 Deer Run Dr., Campton Hills: From the East, West & South** - From the intersection of IL Route 64 (Main St.) and Randall Rd in St. Charles - head north on Randall Rd 3.1 miles to Bolcum Rd stoplight. Turn left (west) & follow Bolcum 2.4 miles to Denker Rd. Right on Denker, then 1st left on Deer Run Drive. Follow .5 mile to 39W925 Deer Run Dr on the left. **From the North & Northwest** - From the intersection of U.S. Rte. 20 and Randall Rd in Elgin - head south on Randall Rd for 5 miles to Bolcum Rd stoplight. Turn right (west) & follow Bolcum 2.4 miles to Denker Rd. Right on Denker, then 1st left on Deer Run Drive. Follow .5 mile to 39W925 Deer Run Dr on the left.



Pic from 2017  
Fall Potluck &  
Annual Meeting  
by Ron  
Asselborn

## GARDENING with Hostas

By Diana Stoll



**Gardens are the Best Therapy** I think all gardeners agree their gardens make them feel better. Whether they serve as a creative outlet, stress relief at the end of a hectic day or physical exercise to burn calories and strengthen muscles, gardens are good for us.

I have always thought of my garden as a living painting, combining flowers and foliage by color and texture. When plants perform as expected, it is a masterpiece. When they don't (and they often don't), the plants are moved into new compositions.

My garden provides plenty of physical exercise. Bending and stretching, pruning and pulling, digging and planting. And, it doesn't require a gym membership.

There is an endless supply of weeds in my garden to release whatever tension I may feel or to calm an anxious mind. A lot of the world's problems could be solved if political leaders spent time weeding, don't you agree?

But in the last few weeks, a garden has come to the rescue in ways I could have never imagined. When I got the phone call my mother had suffered a significant stroke, all our lives changed. After a week in the hospital where she received quick and extraordinary care, she was transferred to Marianjoy Rehabilitation Center.

The movement and strength in her right arm and leg began to return quickly. Her ability to communicate, however, did not improve at the same rate. First, she could manage just sounds. Then the sounds became words and words became phrases – if she didn't think about them. The more she thought about what she wanted to say, the more garbled the output became. The words escaped her.

We learned there was a garden at Marianjoy, and I thought even if it wasn't much of a garden, she would still enjoy spending time outside,

so we checked it out. It was more than I could have ever hoped for. It was filled with the sounds of falling water and birds chirping and it was bursting with colorful flowers and foliage. We had quite a speech therapy lesson in the garden. Many times, she couldn't remember the

names of plants as we admired and stroked them. Other times, she couldn't put together the sounds to name them when she did. So, together, we named and talked about every one.

We rubbed the lavender foliage and breathed in its sweet perfume. She even noticed a weed growing in the middle of a patch of catmint, reached down and pulled it. Always the gardener! As I pushed her wheelchair around a corner, a huge smile spread across her face and she said, as clear as could be, "Lamb's ear!" before leaning down to pet the fuzzy leaves.

We spent over an hour talking about plants and gardening. She didn't even notice we were practicing sounds to retrain mouth and tongue muscles, naming objects in the garden to strengthen the connection between words and objects and answering questions to improve cognitive function. We were just mother and daughter enjoying a walk through a beautiful garden as we have so many times before.

A lot of therapy goes on within the walls of Marianjoy, but their enabling garden was just what my mom and I needed most. But then, as all gardeners know, gardens are the best therapy.



## Cantigny Hosta Garden Ribbon Cutting!

We celebrated the dedication of our AHS National Display Garden at Cantigny Park on July 12 beneath a sunny sky and amidst a gorgeous hosta garden. Dignitaries from NIHS & Cantigny thanked the NIHS volunteers and Cantigny staff for their 6 years of work that culminated in this work of hosta wonder. Mark Zilis charmed the crowd with some hosta history and his own anecdotes of hosta wit & wisdom. After a tour of the hosta garden guests retired to the Visitor's Center for refreshments and socializing in the Medill room.



*Pics by Jeff Reiter & Ron Asselborn*

Ribbon cutters (top right) from l to r Mike Kraus, President NIHS; Craig Kuckenber, Horticulture Design Manager, Cantigny; Scott Witte, Director of Horticulture, Cantigny; Lou Horton, garden originator, NIHS; & Barbara King, NIHS Garden Coordinator. Below right, Mark Zilis, keynote speaker, enthusiastically engages the audience in his hosta anecdotes.



Cantigny Hosta Garden  
continued



*Pics by Ron Asselborn, June Vandervest, & Jeff Reiter*



**HOSTAS**  
  
2020  
MRHS  
Convention  
CHICAGO STYLE

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

**HOSTAS**  
  
2020  
MRHS  
Convention  
CHICAGO STYLE

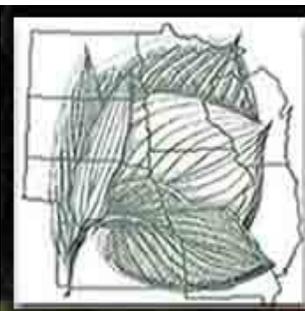


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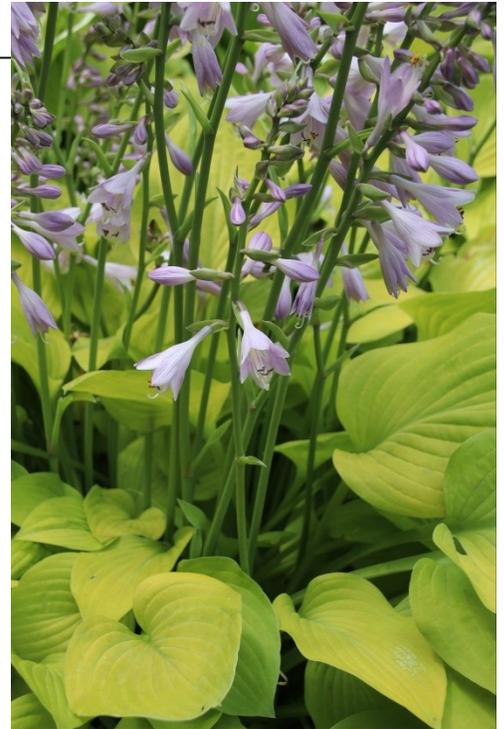
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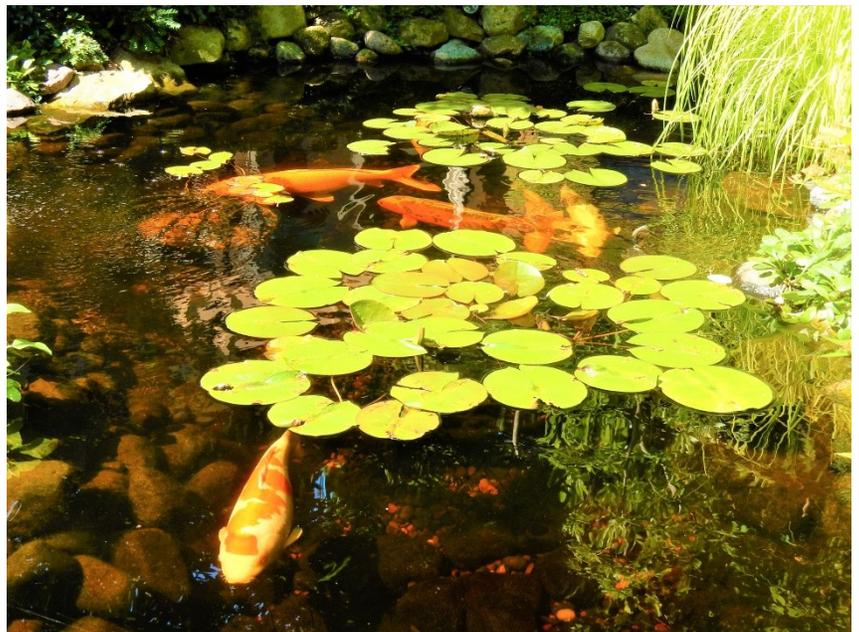
The Midwest Regional Hosta Society

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>

Searching for Golden Hostas & Golden Koi  
Hosta Garden Walk July 7



Wayne & Bill Reid hosted our Hosta Garden Walk on July 7. Bill, above, discussed his garden design with visitors. The koi pond and unique plants were the highlights.



Hosta Garden Walk July 7

continued



*Pics by Ron Asselborn, Dave Trollope, & June Vandervest*



## Another Cantigny Cleanup Crew



This crew of NIHS volunteers prepped our AHS National Display Garden prior to the garden dedication on July 12. Some fun, lots of camaraderie and hard work. The garden looked spectacular!



*Pics by Ron Asselborn*





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

Membership Rates for one year:

Individual \$30

Family \$34

**New Member Welcome!!**

***A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!***

- **Joe & Diane Pacer, Belvidere**
- **Darlene Zuhn, Darien**



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

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

Email us at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](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.



## Hosta Garden Hopping & Shopping via Bus Tour



Our Rockford area & Dubuque area Bus Trip visited 5 gardens including 2 who also were hosta vendors. The gardens were gorgeous and the shoppers filled the bus with prized hostas. Mike & Pamela Carr, top left, hosted in Cherry Valley. In Rockford we visited Jim & Jan Duncan's and neighbor Rebman's shade gardens. In bottom left pic Duncans & Rebman's friend Lori Walsh hold their garden plaques.



*Pics by Ron Asselborn*



Bus Tour page 2



The top pics are a continuation of the Rebman & Duncan gardens.

Our first stop in Iowa was at Jim Husemann's garden and sale shop. Jim is a long-time hybridizer and displayed his hostas in large beds throughout his yard. His hostas were an instant hit with the shoppers. Lou Horton especially admired Hosta 'Smash Hit', on the left, in the Husemann garden.



Bus Tour page 3



Our last tour stop was at The Hosta Leaf. Julie & Bob Hackbarth, above left, operate this rural hosta farm. They custom dug large hosta clumps for their visitors until the bus was overflowing. Next, we toured their gorgeous display gardens filled with blooming hostas, daylilies, and numerous other shade plants.

Then the weary hostaphiles received their final snacks and water for the trip and quietly relaxed on the return journey thru scenic Galena and northwest Illinois.

*Pics by Ron Asselborn & The Hosta Leaf.*

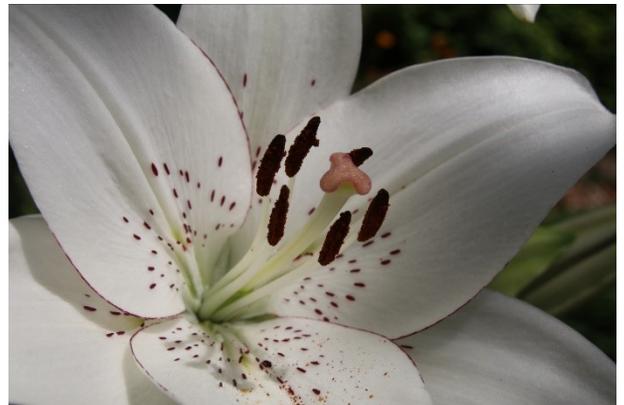


**Dave's View**  
**Closeup & Unusual**  
By Dave Trollope

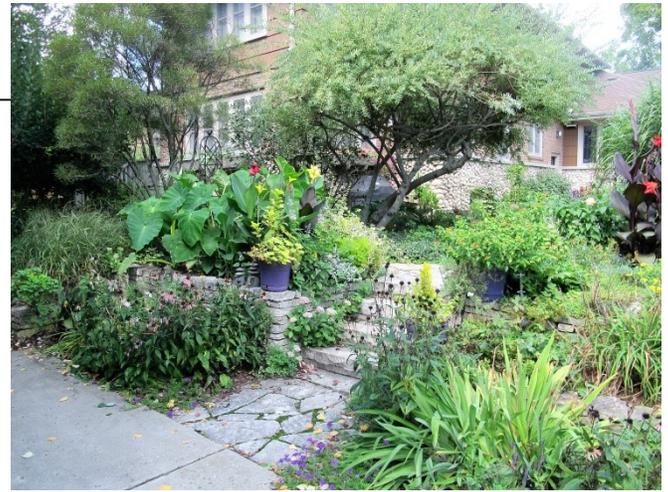


*Pics by Dave Trollope*

The AHS 2019 convention offered me the opportunity to capture rain drops on hostas plus colors untainted by the strength of the sun! I was excited to be able to capture these fine examples. As a first- time AHS convention attendee I was blown away by the leaf show - how the judges differentiated some of the winners from the other submissions I have no idea! They were all fabulous leaves! The frog pair were in a tour garden in Green Bay also. The other pics & the butterfly, top, were taken at the Reid's garden. Cheers



Visiting Cher Herlache's Garden  
in Lombard



Cher Herlache, left, greeted visitors to her serene garden with a welcome sign and an in-person smile. Her prairie-style house on a corner lot was surrounded by manicured gardens bathed in high shade. The hostas, the koi pond, the painted dogs, & the snacks were favorites



Pics by Ron Asselborn & June Vandervest



**Cher Herlache's Garden**  
continued



## View a Hosta Leaf through the Eyes of a Judge

by Judy Artley, AHS Provisional Judge

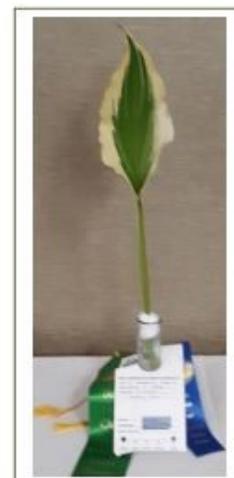
As hosta people, we understand and love the subtle differences of hosta. Non-hosta people are puzzled at our addiction, because they know at most five hosta: the green one, the white and green one, the green and white one, the blue one and the fragrant one. A leaf show reveals to the public the diversity of hosta shapes, sizes, colors, patterns and textures. A leaf show is also a competition, where leaves are judged against the ideal

leaf for their variety. The ideal leaf for each registered variety is its registration data (available on the American Hosta Society's Hosta Treasury website (formerly the Hosta Registry) at <http://hostatreasury.org>). Judges use their knowledge and experience when judging unregistered varieties, sports and seedlings to match the leaf to the categories. Our leaf show will be judged using the AHS Approved Point Scales in Table 1. Table 2 defines the categories. Reprinted from "LEAF LETTERS" July 2019 from the New England Hosta Society newsletter.



Division I – Cut Leaves	Registered and Unregistered Named Cultivars and Species Sections I, II, III, IV, V, XI, XII	Unregistered Seedlings and Sports Sections VI, VII, VIII, IX, X
Categories and Points		
Form	15	Not Applicable
Size	15	Not Applicable
Color and Pattern	15	10
Texture	25	10
Substance	15	10
Condition and Grooming	15	10
Distinction	Not Applicable	50
Form and Size	Not Applicable	10
Total Points	100	100

Source: [American Hosta Society Judges Handbook](#), Section III-E-1



**Table 2. Definitions of Point Scale Attributes**

Category	Definition	Registered	Unregistered
Form	Overall shape of leaf and petiole Fully developed from a mature plant	True to variety per registration data Typical of the cultivar	Graceful Attractive Well-proportioned
Size	Mature leaf from a mature plant	True to variety per registration data Typical of the cultivar	Typical of cultivar, if known by judges Within allowable dimensions for the section
Color and Pattern	Discoloration is a fault, regardless of cause: sunscald, cold, edema, drought Mature leaf from a mature plant	Typical of the cultivar True to variety per registration data	Pleasing and clear Not Dingy, muddy, flat or dull Consistent pattern of color variations
Texture	Surface: smooth, puckered, ribbed, waffled, ruffled Finish: glossy, flat, dull, "bloom" (waxy coating)	Typical of the cultivar True to variety per registration data	Pleasing and in harmony with the overall appearance of the entry
Substance	Firmness and rigidity of leaf and stem Support of good plant form Resistant to damage	Typical of the cultivar True to variety per registration data	Pleasing
Distinction	Used for Sports and Seedlings Only: What makes it different from any other cultivar in any attribute or combination of attributes?		
Condition and Grooming	Healthy Mature	Disease-free No holes	Damage-free No tears Dirt-free No wilt

Source: [American Hosta Society Judges Handbook](#), Section III-E-2

## AHS Honors Two Outstanding Hostas with the Benedict Medal

The American Hosta Society recently awarded two outstanding hostas their Benedict Medal of Honor for Garden Performance. Hostas 'World Cup' and 'Sharp Dressed Man' received their award at the AHS Hosta Convention in Green Bay.

H. 'Sharp Dressed Man' was introduced by Bob Solberg for sale in 2007. It forms an attractive mound 16" high by 45" wide. The leaves are 12.5" long with good substance. It flowers late June-mid-July with 26" long creamy white scapes. 'Sharp Dressed Man' offers attractive, distinctive foliage that displays a narrow white irregular center. It has a hybrid background, possibly 'Francee' crossed with a Tokudama-type.\*

According to *The Hostapedia* by Mark Zilis", "as one of the host world's leading hybridizers, Bob Solberg often bucks trends and traditional thought. After all, how many hosta breeders think of 'Francee' as a breeding plant?"



Hosta 'Sharp Dressed Man' photo by Vanessa Chaborek



Hosta 'World Cup' photo by Gerry Meyer

Hosta 'World Cup' was introduced by Doug Beilstein & Mark Zilis for sale in 2007. It forms an upright vase-shaped clump with deeply cupped and moderately corrugated leaves in a mound 28" high by 40" wide or larger. The leaves are 13" long, bright gold, blade ovate with good substance. 'World Cup' flowers pale purple in June to mid-July with 24-36" scapes. It grows at a medium rate.

Mark Zilis tells this anecdote - "During the 2005 AHS convention auction, I purchased the right to choose 20 plants from Doug Beilstein's seedling patch in Mansfield, Ohio. I remembered picking this one because of its bright gold color and potential based on its parentage. In retrospect it was a tremendous find.

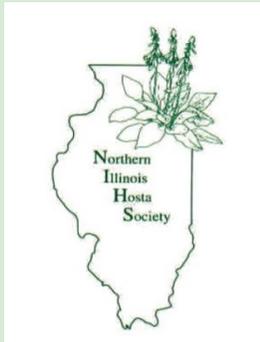
My nursery propagated it by tissue culture and started selling 'World Cup' in 2007. Within three years, the buzz started about what a great plant it was. Then, I started seeing well-grown clumps in collections around the United States and I was astounded. It grew much larger than original expectations, its cupping had intensified and corrugation developed. Most of all, its upright character became evident. 'World Cup' is proving to be a topnotch cultivar."\*

\* Note: Descriptions of H. 'Sharp Dressed Man' & 'World Cup' were adapted from *Mark Zilis' Field Guide To Hostas*.

NIHS Membership Secretary

84 Dunham Place

St. Charles, IL 60174



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



Join the fun at our annual Hosta Auction & Plant Sale on Sunday Aug 11 in Hinsdale. Dig your donation plants now so they will look their best at the auction. Also, the public is invited - so bring some friends.



We're on the Web ! [www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org)

Visit us on Facebook

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Plan to participate in our Fall Potluck and Annual Meeting on Sunday September 15. Details inside. This pic is from the 2018 event at Billie Childress'. Pic by Nancy Huck