

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 114

AUGUST 2020

2020 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Sept 13, Annual Meeting & Hosta Garden Walk, Campton Hills**
- **Oct 18, Fall Symposium, Cantigny Park, Wheaton**
- **Dec TBD, Holiday Party Potluck**
- **June 17-19, 2021 AHS Convention, Kalamazoo, MI**
- **July 8-10, 2021 MRHS Convention, Hostas Chicago Style, hosted by NIHS, Lisle**



President's Letter

I hope everyone is well as we work our way through these uncertain times. At least we have our yards and gardens as a calming diversion from the rest of the outside world. Unfortunately, NIHS has had to cancel most of our events so far this year. The only exception being our hosta garden walks. I extend a sincere thank you to Dennis and Jen Hood, Lou and Nicki Horton and Jim and Jill Morrow for volunteering to open their gardens. It was obvious that everyone was looking for an excuse to get out of the house as we have had record setting attendance at each hosta garden walk. Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit each of our gardens. *(Editor's note: Thanks to Lenny & Mike Kraus for opening their garden also.)*

As I am writing this our first ever "Online Auction" will be taking place. Since we had to cancel our usual "in person" auction, Ron Asselborn advocated our conducting an online auction. I must admit, I had a number of concerns. But Ron was "all in" on this idea. With Ron and Mark Rekoske and their team of volunteers Ron's idea has become a reality. I want to thank all of the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this a success. We also need to thank all of our member plant donors and member vendor donors. Without you, this could not be

Continued next page



In this Issue:

President's Letter	1
Morrow Buying Op.	2
Annual Meeting	3
Hosta Garden Walk 9/13	4
Vendor Ads	5, 7, 8, 9, & 10
Fall Symposium	6
Fall Colors	7
New Member Welcome	9
AHS Conventions '21 & '22	9
Dave's View ...	11
Kraus Haus Garden Walk	12
Garden in Every Sense...	13
Hornbaker Gardens...	15
Why Pay \$1,000 for ,,,?	16
Officers & Directors	18

HOSTAS



CHICAGO STYLE

President's Letter *continued*

possible. Thankfully we have over 270 plants available in our online auction. The Auction seems to be generating lots of hosta bidding and sales. More Auction info at the Annual Meeting

Next up on our Calendar of Events is our Annual Meeting & Hosta Garden Walk scheduled for Sunday September 13th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Given the pandemic, we will “NOT” have a potluck lunch. Judi and Ron Asselborn will once again open their garden for us to tour before and after the business meeting. Please see the articles on pages 3 & 4 for details and directions. During the business meeting we will vote on the Nominating Committee slate of candidates and review and vote on the NIHS 2021 Budget. Please plan to attend as we need a quorum of 10% of total membership as written in our Bylaws.

Our Fall Symposium is scheduled for October 18th at Cantigny Park followed in December with our annual Holiday Party. We will keep you informed on the status of these events. See details of the Fall Symposium on page 6.

Once again, I encourage you to take advantage of the NIHS website

(www.northernillinoishostasociety.org). Stevie MeGINNESS has recently given it a much-improved new look. Stevie is constantly updating and providing new garden information for your benefit. If you are not accessing our website, you are missing out on a tremendous information source. Likewise, our NIHS Facebook page has exploded with people signing on from all over the United States. We now have 373 people signed onto our Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please visit our page and enjoy everyone's comments.

May your garden be colorful, May your hostas be full,
Please be Well and Safe,

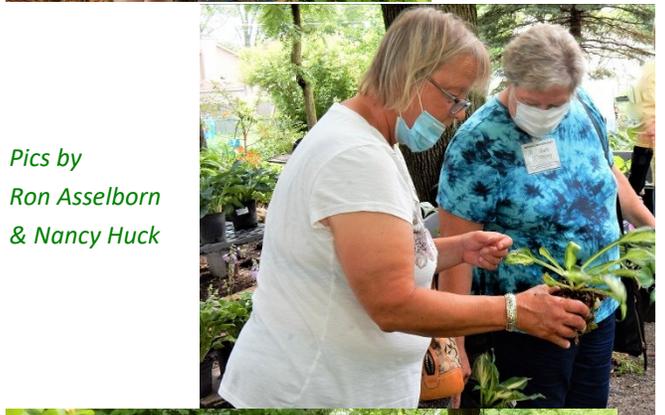
Hosta-la-Vista

Mike Kraus

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Morrow Hosta Buying Opportunity July 19

Jim & Jill Morrow hosted happy hosta hunters at their home on July 19. Many great hostas were purchased at very reasonable prices. Jim Morrow in yellow shirt at right.



*Pics by
Ron Asselborn
& Nancy Huck*



**ANNUAL MEETING – September 13th –
Be There!**

Bring Your Mask and Sanitizer

This year's Annual Meeting will be different than our normal gathering. However, the purpose remains the same. We will be discussing and approving the NIHS 2021 Budget and electing officers. Our meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th at 3:00 pm. This is one hour later than usual. Our hosts will be Judi and Ron Asselborn in Campton Hills (see directions below).

There will not be a potluck lunch this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in its place, Judi and Ron are opening their garden for viewing from 2:00 – 3:00 and from 4:00 – 5:00. The brief business meeting will be conducted between 3:00 and 4:00 at which time we will present the 2021 Budget for discussion and approval. The final segment of the meeting will be the election of officers. We will be electing the following officers for two-year terms: Vice President; Membership Secretary; Hospitality Chair and a Director at Large.

The Nominating committee led by Jim King has developed a slate of candidates for your consideration. Their recommendations will be presented at the meeting. The Nominating Committee Report and the 2021 Budget proposal was recently emailed to you for your review and consideration.



Please contact Judi Asselborn by September 7th to let her know who is coming. Although we will not have a potluck lunch, we would like to have an anticipated headcount. We will be practicing “Social Distancing” and everyone is *required* to wear a mask. Judi is at jasselborn5@gmail.com or 630-460-0209 . **PLEASE Dress for the weather—we will be outside.**

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.

2019 Annual Meeting and Potluck

Pic by Ron Asselborn



Preview—Hosta Garden Walk Sunday Sept 13

Another opportunity to see a beautiful garden! Before and after our Annual Meeting you can visit the extensive gardens of Judi & Ron Asselborn in Campton Hills.

The annual Meeting starts at 3:00 pm. You can visit the gardens from 2 to 3 pm and from 4 to 5 pm on either side of the Annual Meeting.

Due to stay-at-home rules the Asselborn's have been spending lots of time updating their gardens and adding hostas. You will love the Butterfly garden that shows off sun-loving hostas and companions. Their renovated Fountain garden incorporates hostas in a formal setting.

Come out and explore and ask Judi or Ron for a tour.

See article on page 3 for description of the Annual Meeting activities and for Driving Directions.

Pictures by Ron Asselborn



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

2020 Special Events

Open House & Hosta Walk on June 12-13-14
Hosta Expert Bob Solberg on Sunday, July 12 (*reservations required*)
Artisan Market on Saturday, September 19th



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uniquelyhostas@yahoo.com

Fall Symposium Sunday October 18

Life in the Cold: How Plants Adapt to Winter

Bring Your Mask and Sanitizer

Join us on **Sunday October 18 at 1:00 pm** in the Medill Room in the **Cantigny Park Visitors Center**. Our program “Life in the Cold: How Plants Adapt to Winter” gets under the surface of how plants “hibernate” during the winter.

Our presenter, Dr. Dayle Saar, who is also an NIHS member, is semi-retired, as an Emeritus and Adjunct (web) Professor at Murray State University. Dayle and her husband, Mike, reside in Yorkville. They have been members of NIHS since 2013. Dayle earned her Ph.D. in biology from Northern Illinois University in 1999, as part of a mid-life career change. Her research specialty is plant molecular systematics. She sequences plant DNA and analyzes their data to produce “family trees” of species relationships. She is one of the world’s authorities on wild dahlia species from Mexico, and has discovered five new species.

Dayle describes her program as follows—

“As we pass into fall and winter, it may appear that the herbaceous and woody perennials (including trees) in our yards are simply and passively going dormant for the winter months. However, under the surface, there is a flurry of activities going on, both structurally and physiologically, as they prepare to survive the colder months. Dr. Saar, will present details and examples of these fall processes. Some topics include how plants avoid tissue damage from the formation of ice crystals; what keeps seeds from germinating in the fall and how you should store them and promote sprouting at the proper time; why evergreens don’t dry out severely when the ground is frozen and they can’t take up more water; the causes of bright fall colors (in addition to the breakdown of chlorophyll); what causes winter cracks on tree trunks and how to avoid it; and how trees protect their tender spring buds over the winter. We’ll also learn to read leafless sticks – they have a lot to tell us.”



Dayle Saar in her summer garden in Yorkville.



Note: **Admission to Cantigny is FREE** by mentioning to the guard that you are attending the Symposium.



Looking Forward to Fall Colors

Pics by

Ron Asselborn

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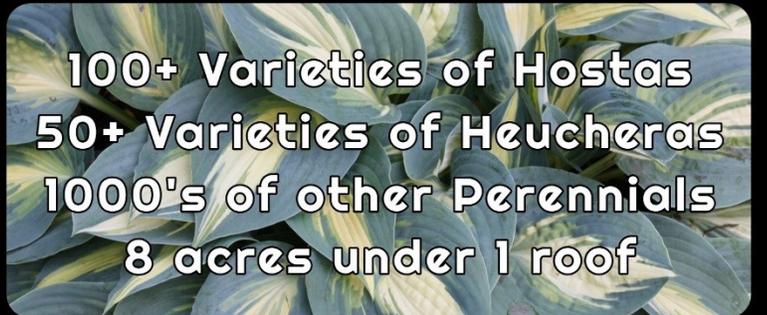
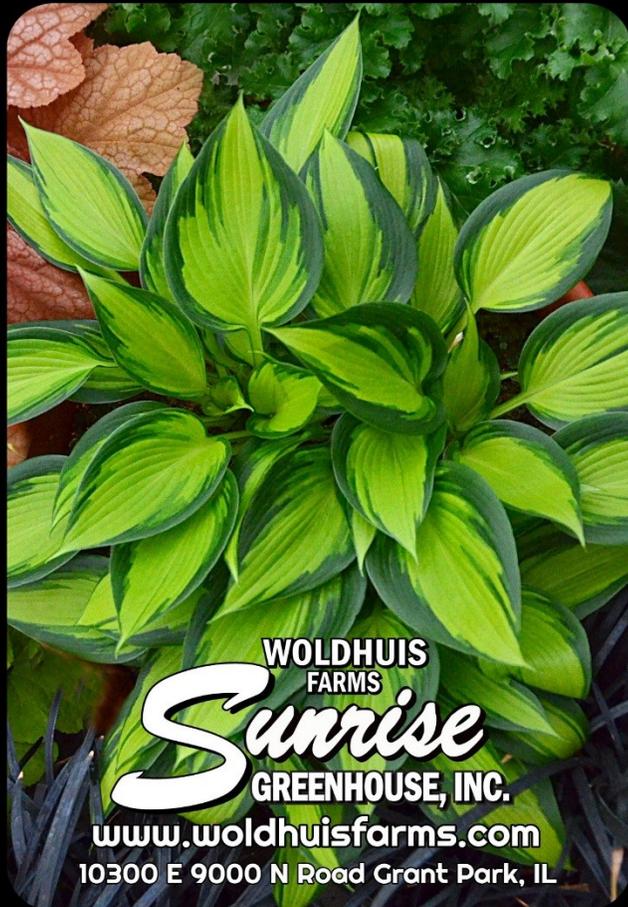
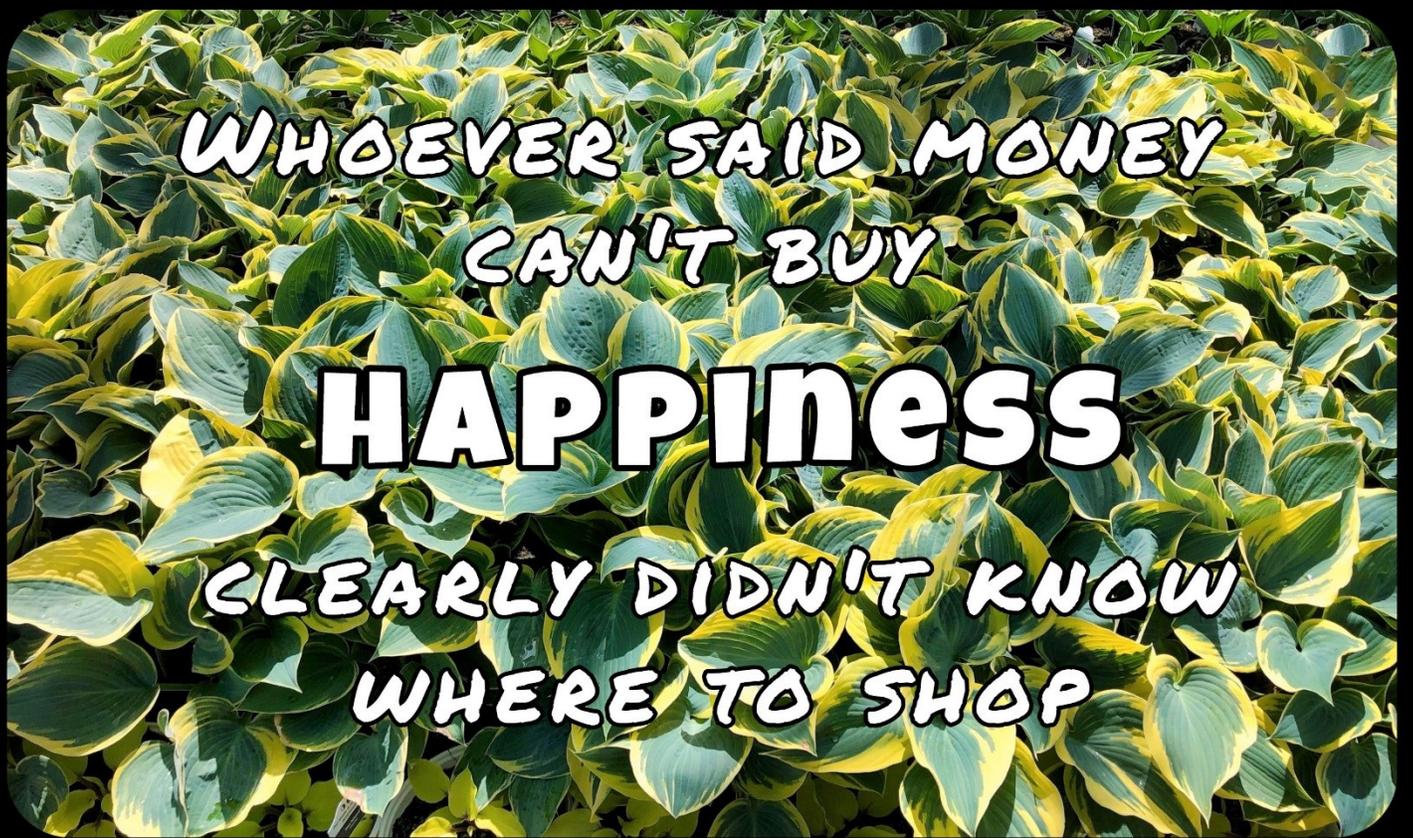
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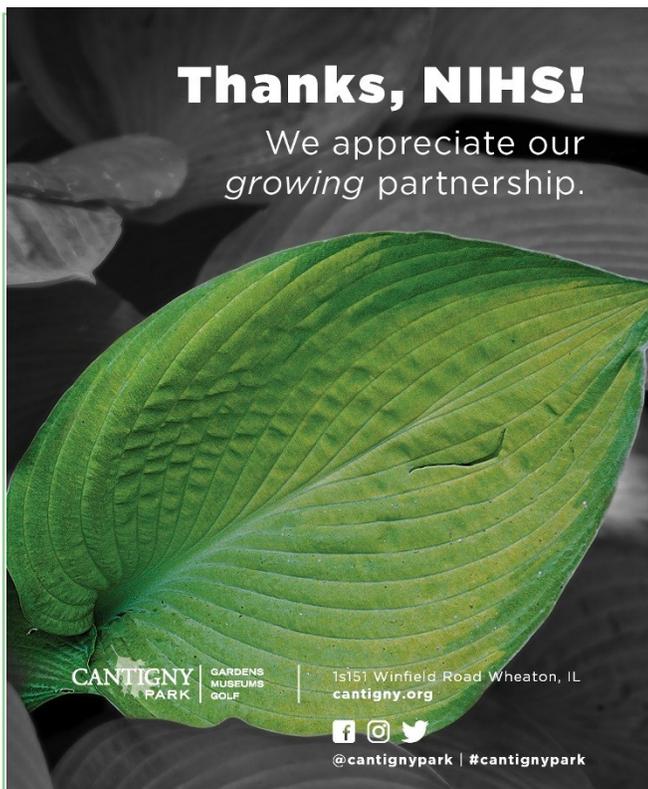


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Join the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Join the NIHS by contacting Stevie Meginness, Membership Secretary, 84 Dunham Place, St. Charles, IL 60174 with your check for \$25. Please include your name(s), address, phone #, and current email address.

Family membership dues of \$25 for 2 years include email versions of 5 newsletters.

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



New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

- **Barbara Bozek & Lonnie Srbeny,**
Crest Hill
- **Bill & Leslie Brandt,**
New Lenox
- **Dan & Cheryl Linneman,**
Hampshire
- **Leila Quagnor,**
Plainfield
- **Rolland & Vicki Scheffner,**
Leaf River
- **Robert & Barbara Shorey,**
Glen Ellyn
- **Keith & Dorothu Stanley,**
Warrenville
- **Keith & Susan Ward,**
Maple Park
- **Richard & Gail Willich,**
Hinsdale





MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

MRHS Membership
Kathy Rustad
4011 10th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Along with Name, Address, Phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.hosta@gmail.com.



Please call for your appointment

	262 375-0617
Jack Barta	262 385-0180

W59 N910 Sheboygan Rd. Cedarburg, WI 53012

**The 2021 AHS
Convention will be
in Kalamazoo, MI
June 17-19**

**The 2022 AHS
Convention will be in
Minneapolis**



The
**american
HOSTA
SOCIETY**

www.americanhostasociety.org

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photos of hostas, reports on the national convention, scientific info concerning current research pertaining to hostas and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family.

DAVE'S VIEW

- Who's the Predator? - By Dave Trollope



Sometimes nature provides for abnormal behavior and role reversals. We have all experienced the abnormal nature with strange weather and Covid -19.

From lower left clockwise to top the Red tailed hawk is observing the American Robin –likely for a meal.

The inquisitive Robin looks straight at the camera (lower center) as if to say “Not Me!”

Then the Robin become the hunter, launching from the rooftop (bottom right).

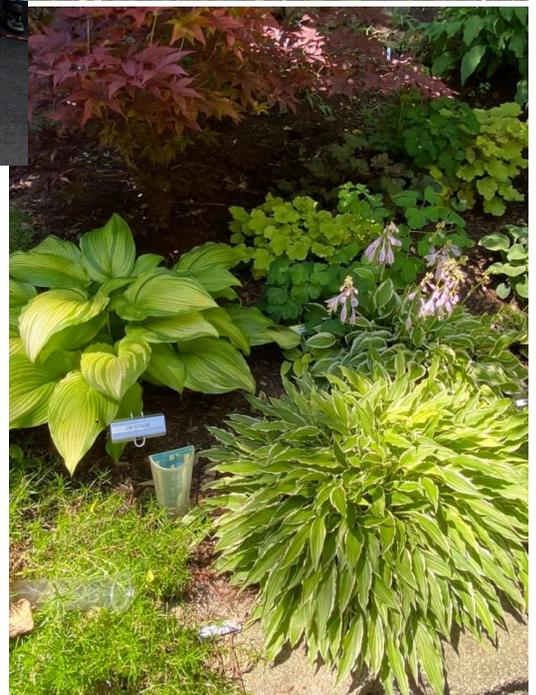
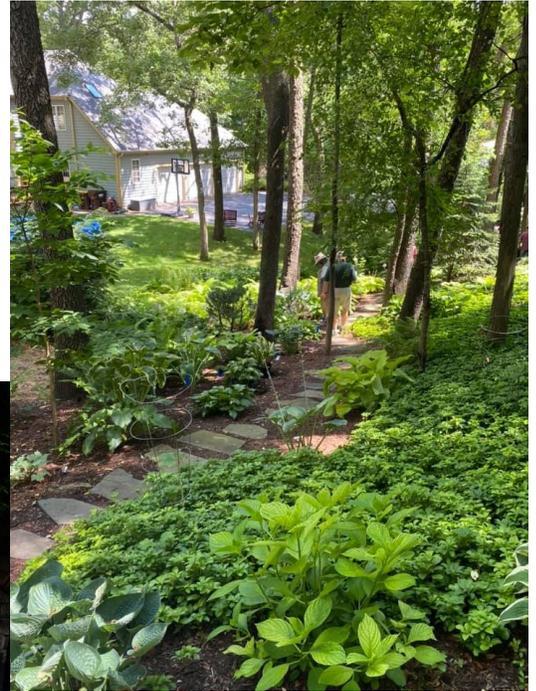


NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Kraus Haus Gardens Extraordinaire!
A Day in the Country July 12



*Pics by
Patricia Bailey
(5), Nancy Huck
&
Ron Asselborn*



Lenny Kraus (pic above) with husband Mike showed off their gorgeous hillside & ravine gardens to NIHS members on Sunday July 12. It was a lovely day for a drive to Crystal Lake and fun to visit with the many hosta lovers who turned out for the Walk. The Kraus Haus gardens were filled with great hostas and lush gardens that surround their property. A lovely day in the country!

Sensing the Garden in Every Season

by George Graine

“The way it works is this: summer is hot and winter is cold and the other seasons fall in between. Gardeners who every year go off the deep end at the first slight variation in mean temperature should try to get that sentence fixed in their heads.” --- Henry Mitchell (1923-1993)

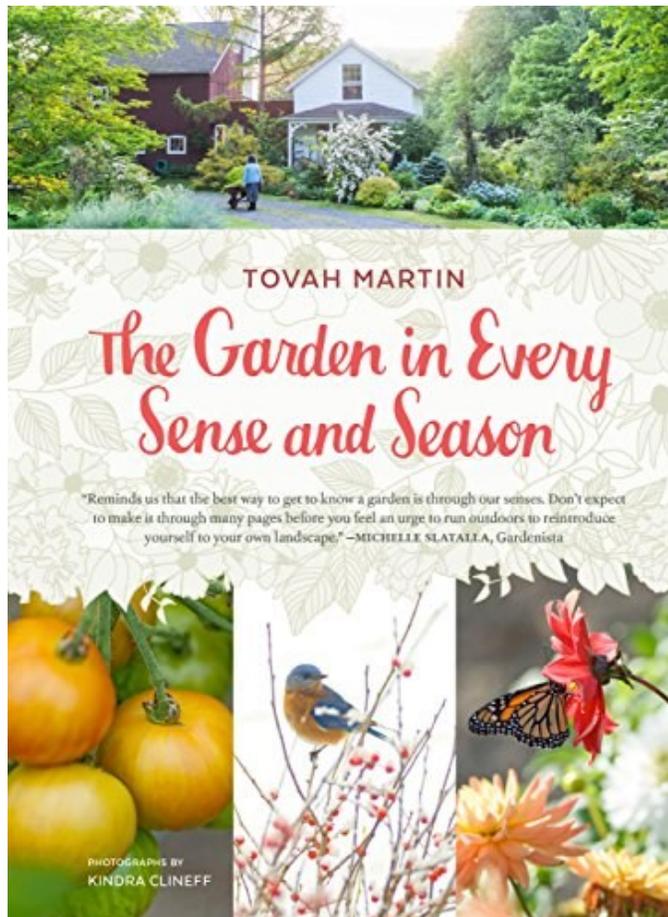
Have you ever wondered why gardening magazines often feature benches and the iconic Adirondack chair? Could it be because they are suggesting you need to introduce yourself to the garden as your personal oasis? Set that aside for a moment. Today we are fortunate to have Tovah Martin, a star in the world of garden writers who teaches us with her recent book about *The Garden in Every Sense and Season* (Timber Press, 2018). In an essay-like style, Tovah provides a different way to think about your garden. Kindra Clineff accompanies this book with beautiful color photos that add a welcome pictorial to the text. The key point of the book is to get you to know your garden through your senses and understand what is happening as the seasons change.

Tovah’s coming to one’s senses introduction to the text is a wonderful starting point for a garden story about her

own garden. The first line of the book introduction is “This is the story of a nose and how I followed it through the year.” That sets the stage for what is to come. Surely with such an opening statement, your curiosity should be more than a little aroused. Tovah does not scold readers of her book because they often make unfulfilling do-lists or other head scratching schemes. She wants you to have a personal relationship with your garden instead of frowning because so much of your time is spent on weeding, pruning, digging holes, raking leaves, fertilizing, watering, eliminating critters and more. Do you recognize this as yourself? If this is you versus nature, then perhaps it is time to develop a change in attitude and purpose and take time to enjoy your garden as a creation for your senses. The reason to read and understand what Tovah

teaches us is to be made aware of the feel-good nature of her gardening advice. To be sure, it is based on her years of gardening experience and reflections of her own garden. The aim of this book is to inform without being preachy. Unlike many other gardening books,

Continued on next page



Sensing the Garden in Every Season continued

Tovah provides a perspective that differs from the often thou shalt type of gardening admonitions. To stop and smell the roses is not what this book is about because that is too limiting. Rather, why do that when you can enjoy and appreciate how you helped to create your own heaven on earth.

Each of the four seasons includes introductory remarks followed by sections on our five senses; that is, sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. Indeed, this is a unique and welcome approach to garden writing. You will experience a full-on sensory potential so that you too can have this in your own garden. Tovah's book can be summed up in her own words as sensory illumination and awakening. She wants to awaken your senses so that you become attuned to what is happening every time you step outside regardless of the season. After reading *The Garden in Every Sense and Season* you will realize that the four seasons truly interact with your senses and ultimately you will realize an endless inspiration for why one should garden.

Reprinted from SHADY BUSINESS Newsletter of The Potomac Hosta Club August 2020 with slight editorial changes. George Graine is a Fairfax County Master Gardener in Virginia.

Hornbaker Gardens continued

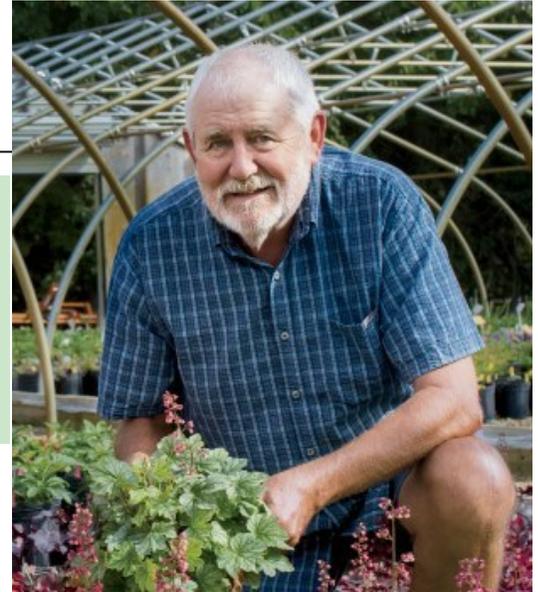
In August of 2014, Kathy Hornbaker died—several years after her diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia.

In her honor in 2017, the Children's Garden was created. It consists of a large, sloped, grassy play area where kids can be kids, climbing and jumping off a big flat boulder or a weather-smoothed White Oak log, going through a tunnel that's five feet in diameter, or playing with scoops and trucks in the pea gravel area. A short distance from the Children's Garden is a sandy beach along the shallow stream in the front yard, where kids are allowed (encouraged, even, by Rich's son Dave) to get all wet and sandy. A playhouse, known as Kathy's Kitchen, was added in 2018, and the Hornbakers plan to make more fun additions over the next few years.

Rich shares, "I am 71 years old now, and I'm fortunate to have a daughter, Molly Blogg, and my son, David, taking over running the business. I enjoy the business too much to completely retire, and I live right here, so I'm usually around doing something. Both Molly and Dave's wife, Laura, are due to have babies in July, so we all have our hands full this year." The Hornbaker family is busy and always happy to assist visitors. Hornbaker Gardens employs 15-20 employees during the season who are also there to help answer questions and guide customers in locating plants suitable for their gardening needs.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hornbaker Gardens & many other garden centers have had a late start opening this season. In June, their doors opened with regular business hours for foot traffic. If you've never had opportunity to visit Hornbaker's or are looking to get out and enjoy a refreshing day in the midst of a park-like setting with the option to purchase something to add to your own garden, take the drive to this Princeton area treasure. See their ad for more info on page 5.

Reprinted from the Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter, July 2020 with minor editorial changes.



Rich Hornbaker

Hornbaker Gardens – the Background

By Karen Hofstetter

Growing up in the 50s and 60s, Rich Hornbaker's parents raised large perennial and vegetable gardens. Admittedly, Rich's interests gravitated to sports rather than gardening. But those seeds his parents planted eventually grew within Rich into a love of gardens and gardening.

In 1974, Rich and his wife Kathy moved to the Princeton area where ample acreage afforded them space to garden. Initially, Rich's growing interests leaned toward the fruits and vegetables, while Kathy's focused on perennials. With the purchase of the property now known as Hornbaker Gardens, Rich immediately began tossing around the idea of making the land work for him and allow him to ditch his law career. So, raspberries, strawberries, fruit trees, and organically grown vegetables were soon planted. The fruit and vegetable farm, Horn's Berry Farm, as it was called, took much intense labor. From it much experience was gained. Hardy mums were first raised and sold to customers in the mid-80's. It took him several years to discover the wonder of perennials including hostas.

From 1984 through 1986, they successfully potted and sold hardy mums. Then in 1986, Rich attended a week-long symposium of the newly formed Perennial Plant Associa-



tion in Columbus, OH. After visiting Handy Hatfield's place near Columbus, his enthusiasm for hostas and other perennials hit a highpoint. Rich saw a great potential for hostas, came back from Columbus ready to quit his law practice, and jump into a new venture— mission accomplished April 1, 1987.

Rich's plan was to be a wholesale business, selling perennials to garden centers in the spring and mums to garden centers and grocery stores in the fall. But soon they eased into the retail end of things, where they found their greatest enjoyment. Rich says, "Making new friends who are fellow gardening enthusiasts, educating new gardeners, and introducing people to new plants is the fun part of the business."

Display gardens, especially for the purpose of showing people what hostas can do for them, were immediately planted. Desiring additional shady display space, the Hosta Ravine was developed. Brush was cleared, garbage was removed, then hostas and shade perennials were planted. Rich served on the board of the American Hosta Society Board of Directors for 6 years. This connection to the hosta world has helped them remain current with developments in hosta growing.

Since then, many additional gardens and plantings, including display ponds complete with gurgling waterfalls, have transformed the property into a botanical garden and an arboretum. Rich often shuttles people on his golf cart to show them various trees that might interest them. He is especially fond of beech trees. For the most part, the various specimens are labeled so that people can see what grows well in this area and see what plants look like when more mature.

Continued previous page



Why Pay \$1,000 for Just One Hosta?

By David L. Jenkins

In simple terms...It's all about supply and demand!! I've been to many a hosta conferences where someone donated a rare or unique new hosta that got everyone excited and talking. Maybe it was the largest hosta ever grown to date or one that had unique foliage characteristics like H. 'Humpback Whale' or 'Gunther's Prize' (sport of 'Sum and Substance').



Mildred Seaver & H. Humpback Whale
(photo by Carol Brashear)



H. montana Moonshine (photo by Viktoria Serafin)

Maybe it was a really awesome sport of H. 'montana Aureomarginata' like 'montana Moonshine' (pic above) that is so slow and difficult to propagate with its somewhat controversial heritage. But there are so many things that can drive up the price of a hosta! The latest craze is to develop the best streaked hosta or one with red leaves or one even more spectacular than H. 'First Blush' that is able to maintain its red coloration all through the growing season.

From the late "Queen of Hostas" herself, Mildred Seaver's spectacular H. 'Humpback Whale' (pic top right) is without doubt...one awesome hosta. For many years, it could only be appreciated by the select few that saw it firsthand in Mildred's garden. Many people had heard tales of its existence, but Mildred cherished it and chose not to release it to anyone! Mildred's son, Charlie Seaver, showed up at the 2006 AHS National Convention with a huge multi-pip division of it. He and Mildred donated it to the live auction that



H. White Feather (photo by Viktoria Serafin)

Hosta 'White Feather' (above) was discovered as a sport from an exceedingly popular old H. 'Undulata' in Holland some ten years ago. When the leaves first emerge, they are pure white appearing totally bleached. This magnificent coloration (or lack thereof) only lasts a short time though in the spring and then the plant slowly greens - enabling it to flourish since

Continued next page

Why Pay \$1,000 for Just One Hosta?**Continued**

the chlorophyll in the green coloration produces the food for growth. There are many other all-white variations of hosta out there, but H. 'White Feather' has consistently proven itself to be a stand-out.

The picture (right) of the green edged mostly white



Yet to be named Sport of 'Lady in Red'
(photo by Arie Blom)

Hosta with the red veins was shared on the American Hosta Society Facebook page by Luc Klinkhamer. It is a photo of his friend's Spectacular hosta sport out of H. 'Lady in Red'. This is Arie Blom's fantastic hosta being grown in his shaded greenhouse in Holland for observation and potential propagation once it sizes up a bit more. It is a sport he discovered a few years ago that didn't develop a full rosette of leaves until last year. Before that, it was simply a partial mutated rosette with awesome characteristics worthy of growing on to see what it would do. Usually when you see something like this as a sport on one of your plants it just turns into heart break when you try to separate it from the mother plant, and it doesn't survive.

I once had an all gold shoot of H. 'Sagae' that I grew on for several years leaving it attached to the main clump that had all the size and ruffles of H. 'Sagae' and I was convinced it would be a much sought-after plant in the future. But alas...it never survived once I separated it and attempted to get it to grow on its own!



H. Lady in Red (photo by Bert Malkus)

Of course, to give this new sport strength, Arie had to keep the H. 'Lady in Red' mother plant (above) attached since discovering it back in 2014. Time will tell how it does once separated from the original plant and put into propagation. For now, he plans to keep a little bit of the original green Hosta with red petioles attached to give it vigor. It hasn't flowered yet so he can't use it in his breeding program. But I'm sure he is hopeful this coloration can be brought out in some crosses in the future. This new sport has the distinct advantage of turning almost all green later in the growing season which should help it survive. As of now, the posting of this new hosta on Facebook has received over ONE THOUSAND "likes," generating over 150 Comments that have created quite a stir on social media. If it were stable and if the first division were to be donated to the next American Hosta Society Auction, it could easily become the highest-priced hosta ever!



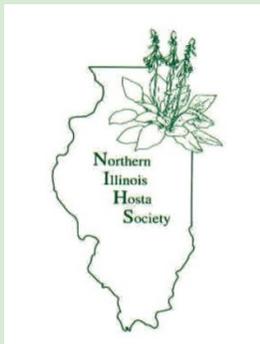
H. Gunther's Prize (Photo by Rick Goodenough)

*Reprinted from Upstate New York Hosta Society
Newsletter*

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.



The Annual Meeting and election of NIHS Officers will occur Sunday Sept 13 at 3:00pm. Explore the Asselborn gardens before or after the meeting.



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Visit the Asselborn Garden & Annual Meeting Sept 13