

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 117

MAY 2021

2021 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- June 5, Hosta Garden Walk & Hosta Shopping, Richmond, IL
- June 19, Hosta Garden Walk, Gurnee
- June 26, Wisconsin Garden Caravan to 3 Gardens in Cedarburg, WI
- July 11, Hosta Garden Walk, Downers Grove
- July 15-17, 2021 AHS Virtual Convention, Kalamazoo, MI
- July 25, Hosta Garden Walk, Elgin
- Aug 13-15, Online Hosta Auction
- Sept 12, Potluck & Annual Mtg, Campton Hills
- Oct 17, Fall Symposium, Cantigny Park
- Dec 2021, Holiday Party, TBD
- July 14-16, 2022 MRHS Convention, Hostas Chicago Style, hosted by NIHS, Lisle Postponed to 2022
Save the Date!



President's Letter

I hope everyone is well and safe and vaccinated as we navigate our way through this pandemic. Lenny and I were able to complete our vaccinations in March just in time to visit with our newly arrived second granddaughter in Maryland.

By now most of your hostas have leaped out of the ground just in time for our new normal of **May frosts and/or freezes**. Both last year and this year Lenny and I quickly tried to cover our hostas with whatever we could lay our hands on. This year I purchased a couple of frost blankets. We still had some leaf damage even before the 2 nights of frost in April. We have leaves trying to unfurl but the cold weather seems to stop the unfurling. We end up with a leaf within a leaf within a leaf. I found I can attempt to gingerly unfurl these leaves manually one at a time to reduce some of the damage. What we won't do to save our children, our furry children and our leafy children!

Speaking of which if you haven't put down your **slug control** yet it's time to "git 'r done". I remember Tom Micheletti always reminding us at the April Spring Symposium that we should have already put it down.

On April 11th we conducted our

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President's Letter *continued*

first ever NIHS "Zoom" meeting – **Spring Symposium**. Our guest speaker was Richard Hentschel from the University of Illinois Extension. Please read Janet Simpson's article on page 18 recapping this event. Zoom has become the new standard for remote learning and remote meetings. We will continue to look for other Zoom opportunities but we will probably not conduct any Zoom meetings past May this Spring/Summer as I assume everyone will want to be outside.

In March I participated in a Zoom presentation for the annual **Hosta College** hosted in Piqua, OH. They had a few IT people that made this remote experience just as good as their prior in-person events. The major change was your inability to pick the sessions/classes you wished to participate in. It was still an extremely well-planned informative event.

May is our annual **Sponsor Plant distribution**. This year for the first time all sales and payments were conducted through our website. Thank you to Stevie Meginness and Gary Blauser for making this possible. This year we exceeded all expectations. Within 2 ½ days most of our plants were sold out. We offered 25 of each of our 5 cultivars. Since everything sold out so quickly, we went back and ordered additional plants from both Jeff Miller and Bob Solberg. Again, shortly after updating the website we sold out again. The Sponsor Plant program has been in place for a number of years and typically offers 3 and sometimes 4 cultivars for purchase with 25 plants of each cultivar. This year we offered 5 cultivars- 1 had 25 plants, 1 had 30 plants and 3 had 35 plants. These plants are offered to us at a significant discount from their retail pricing with the savings passed on to you. A BIG thank you to everyone that participated. This is NOT a fundraiser of NIHS. However, Jeff Miller did gift 1 cultivar to us at no cost - Hosta 'Truly an Honor'. So, all proceeds from the sales of those 25 plants benefitted NIHS. Thank you Jeff!!

By the time you receive this Newsletter, it is my hope that most if not all of our plants will

be distributed. I have 3 of the available cultivars at my home. One must still be dug up and potted. One of our suppliers, **Jeff Miller**, had a medical emergency in April. I believe everything is progressing well for Jeff. We wish him well and pray for his speedy recovery. It is unclear at this time when we will have access to the remaining 2 cultivars. We will wait for Jeff to get his health back before worrying about those 2 cultivars.

As a part of the ordering process, those who participated, supplied their email address. I will be contacting you via email to update you on our progress and when plants will be available. To simplify the process I will be reviewing our orders by zip code and assigning everyone to their closest pickup point.

Zoe Ingersoll is working feverishly to get our **garden walks** booked this year. We look forward to the three new gardens she is making arrangements for. Please check out Zoe's articles detailing our June 5 and 19 plus July 11 Garden Walks.

This year the annual bus tour will look different. Mark Rekoske is organizing a **Garden Caravan** to Cedarburg, Wisconsin on Saturday June 26th. Given the pandemic and the current vaccination process Mark believed it would be better to have individuals drive rather than have everyone load onto a bus. See Mark's article detailing the Hosta Caravan this summer.

Check out the **Calendar at a Glance** on the first page to see all of the events scheduled so far for 2021.

It is that time of year again to get back into the AHS National Display Garden at **Cantigny Park**. If you haven't seen our garden, it is a real



Hosta 'Truly an Honor'

Continued next page

President's Letter *continued*

gem. We have a dedicated group of NIHS volunteers that maintain the garden each year. See Barbara King's article to gain more information. Hope to see you out there this year.

As you may have already seen, the **AHS Convention in Kalamazoo, MI** has gone virtual this summer from July 15 – 17. Ron Asselborn has included the Press Release for the AHS 2021 Virtual Convention. As we previously announced, NIHS as host, had to postpone for a second time, the **Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention** in Lisle. Please read Barbara King's article updating us on the 2022 MRHS convention.

Our incredibly successful 2020 **Online Auction** will once again be online in 2021. Ron and Judi Asselborn and their team did a magnificent job in setting up and executing last year's auction. Details will follow in a future newsletter. If you believe you will be donating plants to this year's auction, do not delay in getting those plants potted up. I know of a couple people who have already potted plants and set them aside for the auction.

I always ask folks to **visit our website** as it has a great deal of pertinent information. Visit our Calendar Page to keep up to date on the NIHS upcoming events. The presentation is a full month's calendar that you can click on an event to see the details. Stevie Meginness has included instructions on this page on how to convert this to a list view for easier reading of the entire year's events.

We also have a **Facebook page** which has become very popular. We have more than doubled our viewers/participants recently to 500+. Stevie reports there are 512 Facebook members in the U.S. and 21 members from 9 other countries. Since our NIHS membership is approximately 200, we are being noticed by many others throughout the state and country and world. If you are on Facebook, take a look at our page. It is a fun and an informative place to learn about hosta happenings.

Your NIHS Board has worked hard to ensure that we have a menu of pertinent activities for you to participate in. This past year has been difficult but your Board members

have stepped up and done a fantastic job. I would like everyone to consider "volunteering" to **join the NIHS Board**. At this year's Annual Meeting in September there will be 4 board member positions up for re-election. Of those 4 positions there will be two board member's leaving the board which will require 2 newly elected board members. This is a really great dedicated group of people. We meet 4 times a year for 1 ½ hours or so, typically at a centrally located venue or via Zoom. If you are interested or need more info, please contact Tony Kwiatkowski, June Vandervest, Gary Blauser or myself.

If you would like to be **more involved with NIHS**, we have other volunteer opportunities that might interest you. A good place to start is on our website. Under our "ABOUT US" tab click on Volunteers. We list a "few" possibilities for you to consider.

Looking for some great hostas this summer? Consider contacting one or more of our **Member Vendors**. Again, go to our website, go to the ABOUT US tab and click on Member Vendors. There you will find our list of vendors with either a link to their website, Facebook Page or we show their phone number. Some are near enough to visit others sell online. Our online sellers will take your order, package up the bare root plants in your order and ship them to you. If you order online, upon receipt of your plants, I suggest you place the roots in water to rehydrate them (try to keep the crown above the water level) for 24 hours before planting in the ground.

May your hostas be plentiful, lush and beautiful. Remember there is always room for another hosta.

Be Well and Be Safe. Hosta-la-Vista,

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS

PAGE 4

Hosta Garden Walk Two-fer June 5

Don't Miss the Fun!

For our first garden walk of the season Mark Rekoske and The Hosta Haus have joined forces to offer a unique garden walk and shopping experience “up north” on either side of the Illinois Wisconsin state line on Saturday, June 5.

The Rekoske garden in Richmond IL is up north, just two blocks from the Wisconsin state line. The garden will be open from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Almost seven years ago Mark and Marsha moved from Buffalo Grove to the bucolic corn and bean fields outside of Richmond. Mark moved over 300 plants, mostly hostas, from his former garden. Overgrown thickets of scrubby trees, buckthorn, honeysuckle and garlic mustard have been gradually removed. He installed a waterfall and a small pond that anchors one of the beds. Mark has planted dozens of native plants, ornamental shrubs and understory trees amidst the majestic centuries-old oak trees that first attracted him to the lot. Over 500 varieties of hostas are now on the property. Some large mature hostas line the driveway and fill a large planting bed in the front yard. That bed was shaded by a large white oak that blew down in last August's derecho. Time will tell how the plants fare with more sun. Many hostas are maintained in containers as Mark has slowly incorporated them in the landscape. He confesses that he prefers visiting gardens and shopping for new plants to actually planting them. In the rear yard, one hosta bed of about 100 feet in length is composed entirely of hosta seedlings that Mark has grown over the years.

**Mark & Marsha's address is 10902 Hickory Nut Way
Richmond, IL 60071**

pics by Mark Rekoske



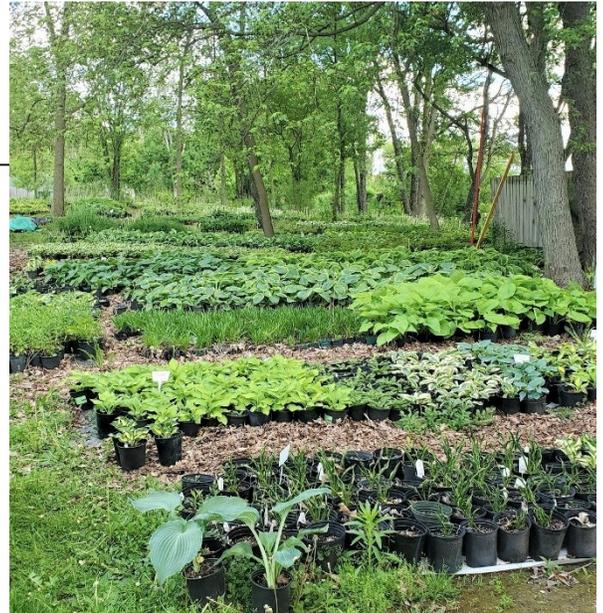
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Hosta Garden Walk Two-fer continued

Hosta Haus is just over the state line near Genoa City, Wisconsin, only 15 minutes from the Rekoske garden. Hosta Haus is a wonderful source of hostas, vegetables and annual flowers. Teri and Richard maintain a Facebook page for Hosta Haus and their prices are very reasonable. They sell from home and travel to a few nearby flea markets. They will open just for NIHS members and guests from **8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** on June 5th. They expect to offer 105 varieties of hostas for sale, dozens of varieties of tomatoes and peppers as well as other vegetables and flowering annuals. A price list should be available before the sale date.

Their address is N921 Rose Dr, Genoa City, WI 53128

*Pics by
Hosta Haus*



2021 Special Events

Open House & Hosta Walk on June 11-12-13

Hosta Expert Bob Solberg on Sunday, July 18 (*reservations required*)



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Hosta Garden Walk June 19

Joe & Monica Jansen's, Gurnee

Joe Jansen's confession to hostaholicism

I've always enjoyed gardening (an awesome stress reliever) since I was young and even started my own one-man landscaping business to help pay the bills while I was attending college. My college, Elmhurst College (IL), is a National Arboretum. I was lucky enough to work on the grounds crew one season and learned quite a bit.

So, it was very exciting when Monica and I got our first house and I was able to create & design my own garden. We've lived in our current house for around 20 years now. And when we first moved in there was only one tree that I was able to touch the top of. Fast forward, I'm now able to enjoy the shade that is provided by many mature trees which allows for the protection of my hostas and Japanese Maples. Of course once you get started with hostas, it's really hard to stop. One of the best parts of this journey has been meeting other hostaholics, learning from them and getting to actually see plants (and sometimes even the opportunity to purchase a rare hosta) you've only heard about. Lastly, I always enjoy having other garden enthusiasts come to my yard, enjoy and talk shop.

Garden open 2 to 5pm

The three main staples of my garden are Hostas (800+ varieties), Japanese Maples (50+ different cultivars) and many hard to find and rare conifers. I enjoy using these plants & trees to paint my garden with color. My style is definitely a controlled wild look. My goal is to always make something look like it's been there for many years. I'm always moving things around, putting in more paths, adding more seating areas, deciding what my next yard project will be and definitely removing grass in order to add more hostas and trees.

Directions to 640 Yorktown Lane, Gurnee, IL:

From Interstate 94, take the IL Route 120 East ramp. Take 120 East to O'Plaine Road & turn Left/North. Take O'Plaine Road to Country Trails Road & turn Right. Take Country Trails Road (it's a curvy road) all the way to Yorktown Lane & turn Right. The house will be the second to last house on the right side (640 Yorktown Lane).



Pics by Joe Jansen



HOSTA HAPPENINGS



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Hosta Caravan to Wis June 26

By Mark Rekoske

Register Now for the NIHS Hosta Caravan to Cedarburg Wisconsin. Our newly added garden is Linda Wenthur's, a landscape designer. Her garden, near downtown Cedarburg, exquisitely displays a variety of textures and colors using plants that thrive in a shady environment.

Additionally, we will visit the garden of Glenn and Terry Herold and Jack's Hostas retail hosta nursery described in the March newsletter. Plus you can stroll thru charming downtown Cedarburg. All this as near as 1.5 hours north from O'Hare International Airport! Plan now to attend our first ever Hosta Caravan.

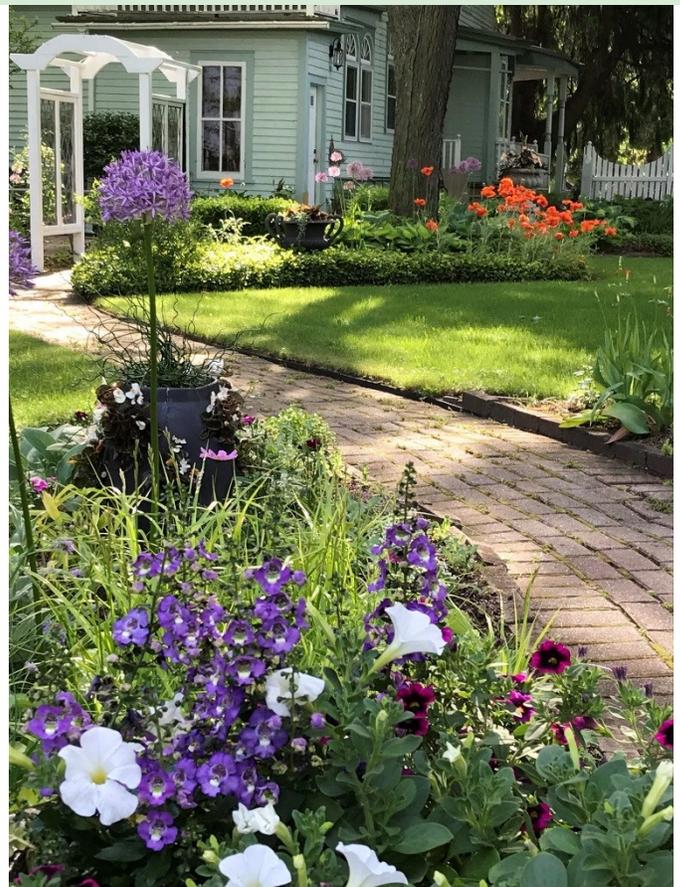
To Register: please email Mark at ma-rekoske@gmail.com by June 1st. Please register now so we can tell our garden hosts how many visitors to expect. Mark will provide hours, addresses, driving directions and information about Jack's Hostas inventory by return email.



Glenn and Terry Herold's front yard—above

Linda Wenthur's front entry - below

Pics by Glenn Herold and Linda Wenthur respectively



Jack's Hostas display gardens

pic by Jack Barta



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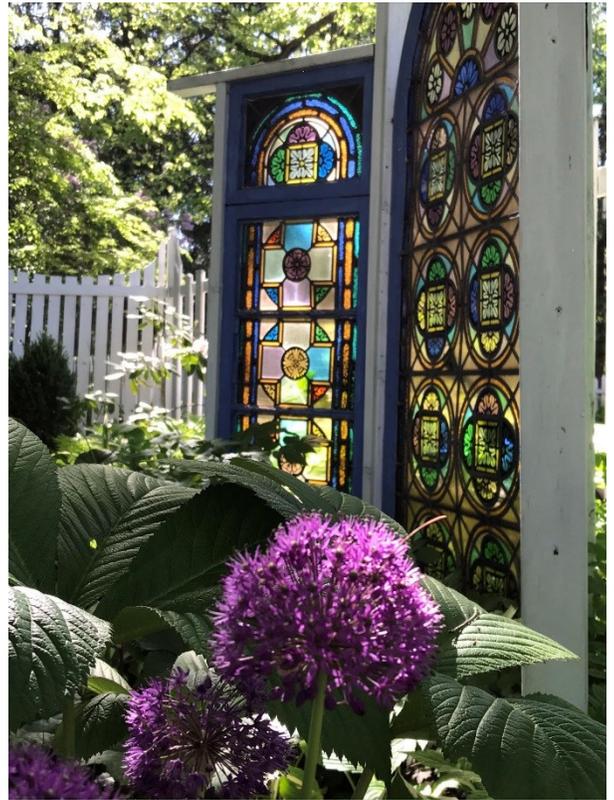
First Ever Hosta Caravan to Wis June 26

continued



Cedarburg Mill

Cedarburg is a lovely tourist area with much to see and do including several wineries, breweries, distilleries, shopping, restaurants and art galleries. For TripAdvisor's list of Top Things to See & Do in Cedarburg go to https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g59768-Activities-Cedarburg_Wisconsin.html



Linda Wenthur's back garden— above & below



Glenn and Terry Herold's rear garden



Hostas & Daylilies in Downers Grove

Hosta Garden Walk July 11

The Vandervest's have been living in Downers Grove for more than 33 years. In 1988, we moved to a quiet section of Brookbank Road. Our home is sheltered by a silver maple on the west overlooking a public wetlands with lots of cottonwoods at the water's edge. My mother gave us hydrangeas, daylilies and phlox to get started.

We named our property Brookbank Prairie Estates. The rolling lot proved a challenge to mow, so sweeping beds went in under the trees. Soon they were filled with Hosta, ferns, Pulmonaria, Hellebores, Solomon's Seal and more shade lovers. Hosta are among my favorites. Over the years I've collected numerous varieties, including many color variations, sizes and types.

A passion for daylilies, iris, peonies and roses is evident everywhere full sun permits. My mother and my grandmother both belonged to the First Czechoslovak Garden Club of America. Mom always had a big vegetable garden. Grandmother grew dinner plate sized dahlias and had four acres in Burr Ridge where she grew vegetables and had an orchard. So I guess gardening is in my blood.

In 2007 I became a Master Gardener with the U of I Extension. My wonderful gardening friends Mary Ann Brucher, Sue Clark and Olga Swehla introduced me to NIHS and the "real" Hosta varieties. Little did I know the plant my Mother called "August Lilly" was really *H. Plantaginea* and the skinny green one was *H. Lancifolia*. I had two named varieties and didn't even know it!

I joined NIHS in 2008 and have been adding to my collection ever since. Gary makes wine and I garden. We encourage the birds and feed cardinals, orioles, woodpeckers, chickadees and more. My gardens are a place of serenity that can be enjoyed even when just pulling weeds.

Our gardens are open Sunday July 11 from 2 to 5.

Our Address: 5912 Brookbank Road, Downers Grove, IL

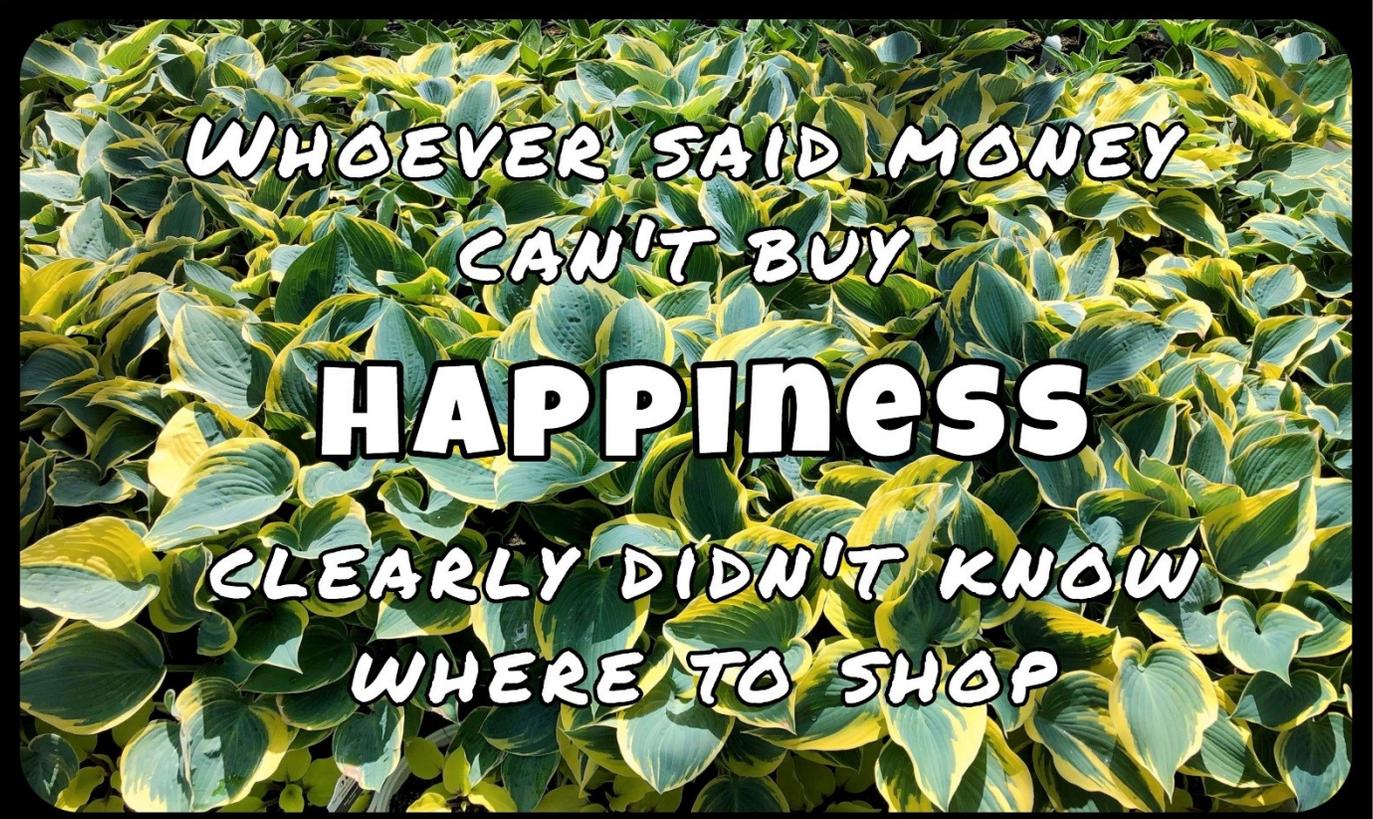


Pics by June Vandervest



*June's hosta bed displaying her 'minis', above
Hosta 'Smash Hit', below*

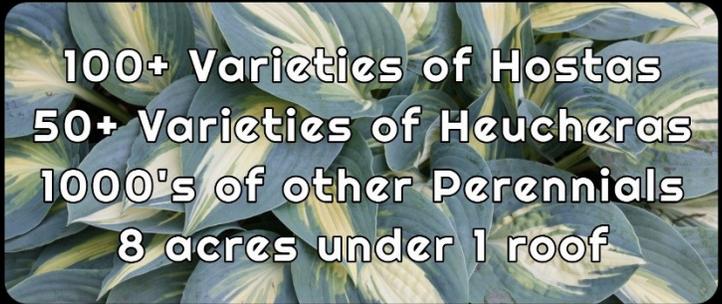




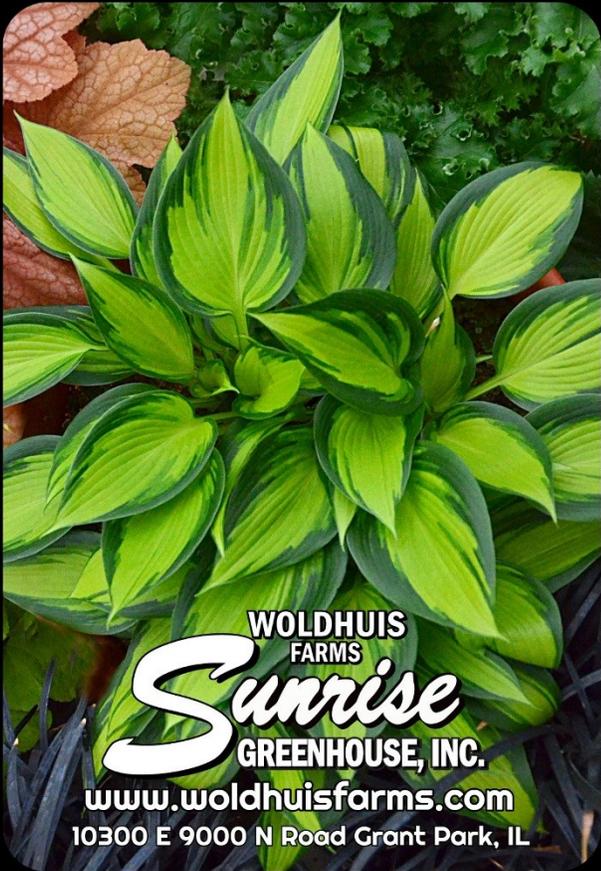
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Hostas Emerge and Volunteers Return to Cantigny Park!

By Barbara King

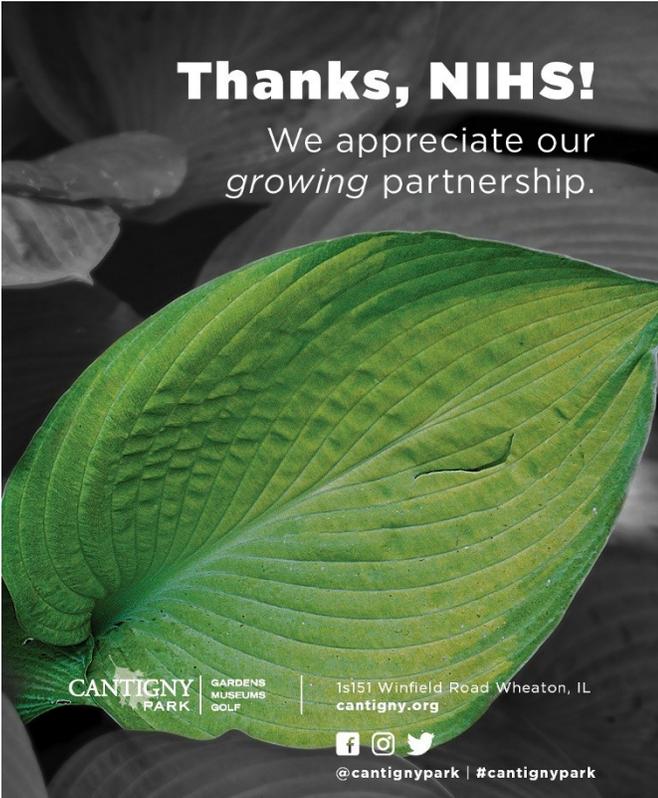
Despite the threat of rain, NIHS volunteers working in the Cantigny Hosta Garden began their season of hosta care on the morning of Tuesday, May 4, with an attack on scilla that had spread to the verge of obscuring emerging hostas. They made a great start. After a few hours of diligent attention to the task, Crew Leader Diane Barrowman was able to take this photo:



It's so exciting to see the hostas and companion plants return. Clearly a lot more work remains, but we're making good progress. An even bigger difference will be apparent after our next session, when more volunteers plan to come.

Several more care sessions are on the calendar over the next few weeks. **MORE VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE WELCOME! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE NIHS CANTIGNY VOLUNTEER CORPS**, contact Barbara King at bhk430@att.net or call her at 630-879-2263. Sincere thanks to all the volunteers from NIHS who work so hard to make the Cantigny Park Hosta Garden better each year!

Thanks, NIHS!
We appreciate our
growing partnership.



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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.

A central graphic with a sunburst background and the text "Spring into Summer". Surrounding it are five notices:

- Garden Center Open**
Mon-Fri 9-5
Sat. 9-4
Sun 12-4
- Like Butterflies?**
We have pollinator plants
- Bulk Premium Hardwood Bark Fines**
\$48/cu.yd.
Free delivery to Genoa/Kingston
- Lloyd Landscaping and Garden Center**
662 Park Ave
Genoa, IL
- Check for upcoming events**
www.lloydlandscaping.com

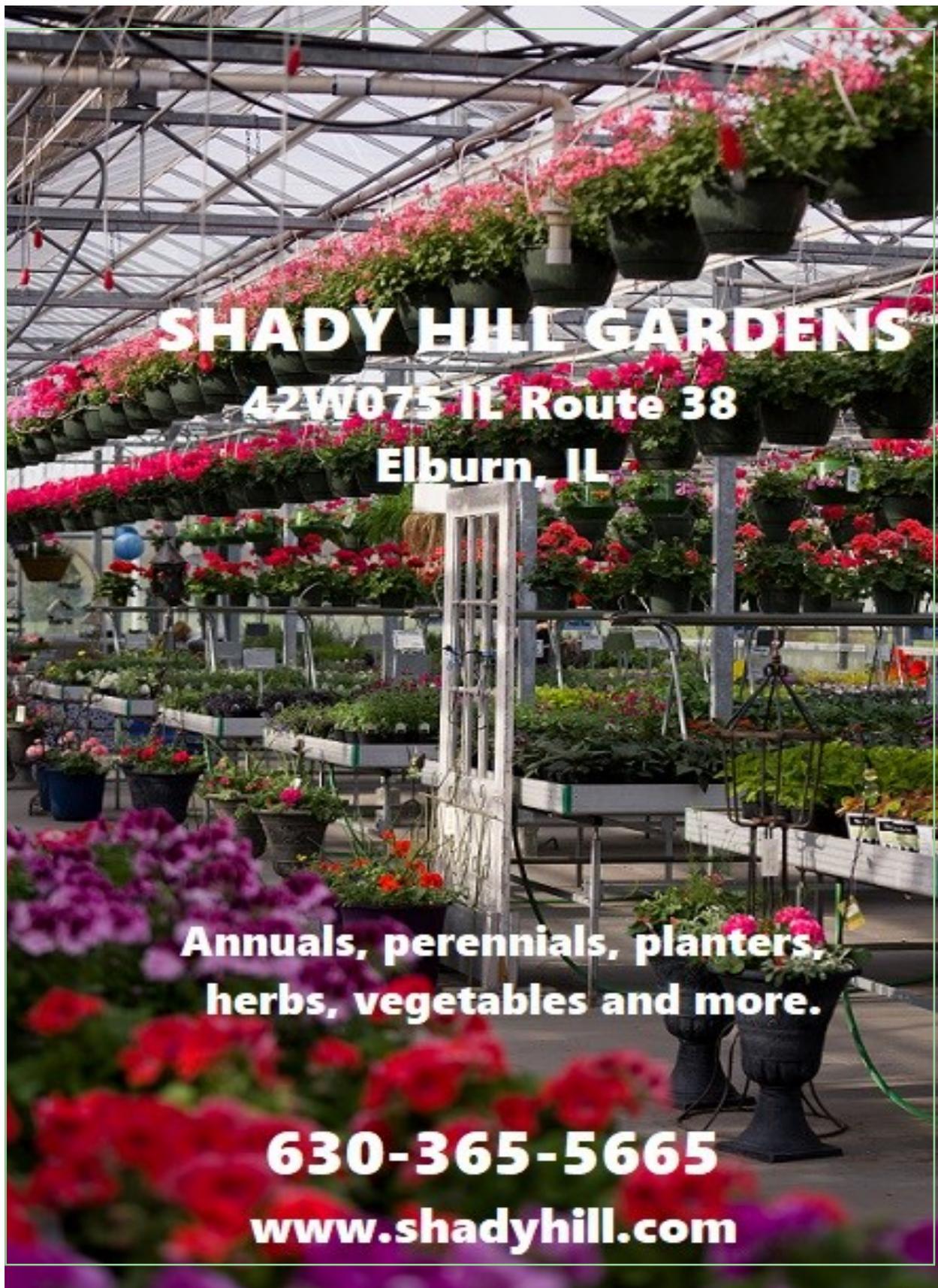
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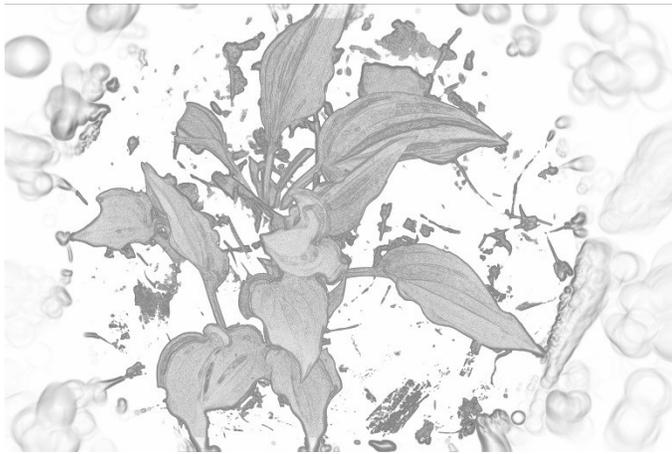
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DAVE'S VIEW

Hostas as Penciled Art

By Dave Trollope



H. 'Swirls' left



H. 'Pineapple Upside down Cake' above and H. 'Empress Wu' below

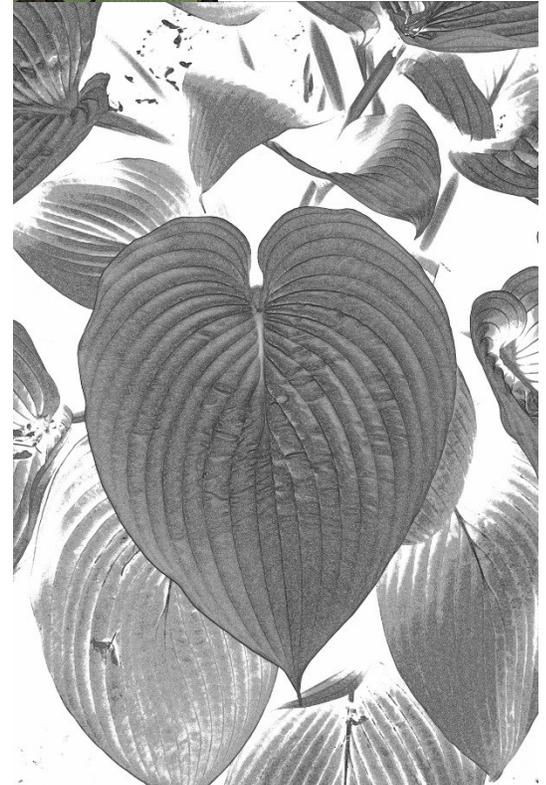
Here is a different twist - turning Hosta photos into penciled art! This is a selection of recent spring hosta photos edited with Corel PaintShop Pro X9, using the Pencil Art Media. This effect was created after modifying the images to de-emphasize the backgrounds using a combination of tweaks with Brightness, Contrast, Depth of Field and Color Levels & Curves.

Originally, I planned a theme of Hosta's with more distinct shapes. But as I compiled them, I thought - I wonder how they look as a pencil drawing. After experimenting, I went back to Empress Wu for a striking but traditional view and was pleased with the outcome.

I think the results are an interesting perspective - hope you enjoy them! Included are the original photos for your comparison.



H. 'Kabitan' left





Northern Illinois Hosta Society

HOME ABOUT US CALENDAR MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS & FLYERS RESOURCES CONTACT US MEMBER'S ONLY



Some of our Programs, Events & Activities



Annual Membership Meeting- September 12, 2021

The purpose of this annual meeting is to discuss and approve the NIHS annual Budget and election of new officers to fill vacant positions. Our meeting is usually scheduled on a Sunday in



Sponsor Plant Pick-Ups-May 2021

You will be notified by email regarding your member purchases from March & April 2021 regarding pick up location

As Lou Horton, NIHS Past President, 2003-2011, has always said, "the Sponsor Plant Program is designed for the benefit of

Join the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Join the NIHS by going to our website www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and scroll over on the navigation bar to Membership. You can pay your membership dues on-line on our secure server or print out an application form and mail to our membership secretary with a check payable to NIHS. Pls mail to: 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 332-235-4114 . Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and visit us on Facebook.

New Member Welcome!!

Welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

Roger & Judi Breisch, Batavia

Michael & Kristine Ellis, Trevor, WI

John & Jane Graham, Plainfield

Clint & Madeline Ticknor, Rockford

Sue Ward, Joliet



Our First Ever—Spring Symposium via Zoom

Organic Matter and why it matters



- Organic matter contains everything any plant needs to achieve healthy sustained growth
- Organic matter contains everything to support microflora in the soil, especially carbon



Organism	Number (m ⁻²)	Number (g ⁻¹)	Biomass (kg ha ⁻¹)
Bacteria	10 ¹³ – 10 ¹⁴	10 ⁸ – 10 ⁹	300 – 3000
Actinomycetes	10 ¹² – 10 ¹³	10 ⁷ – 10 ⁸	300 – 3000
Fungi	10 ¹⁰ – 10 ¹¹	10 ⁵ – 10 ⁶	500 – 5000
Algae	10 ⁹ – 10 ¹⁰	10 ³ – 10 ⁶	10 – 1500
Protozoa	10 ⁹ – 10 ¹⁰	10 ³ – 10 ⁵	5 – 200
Nematodes	10 ⁶ – 10 ⁷	10 ¹ – 10 ²	1 – 100
Earthworms	30 – 300		10 – 1000
Other invertebrates	10 ³ – 10 ⁵		1 – 200

Above, a screenshot from Richard Hentschel’s presentation. Richard is the presenter, pictured in the top right corner

“Why Organic Matter Matters”

By Janet Simpson

Our Spring Symposium was conducted by Zoom this year. Our Speaker, Richard Hentschel from the University of Illinois Extension, provided a very interesting talk on the structure of soil and the importance of organic matter. Richard broke down the soil into the basic chemical structures and how water is held by the different types of soils. Incorporating organic materials is clearly the best approach to build soils with water retention and drainage.

He also covered the microflora of the soil, including bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa and nematodes. Everyone gained a deeper understanding of the structure of soil

Spring Symposium Video Available

By Mike Kraus

We are making the 2021 Spring Symposium Zoom meeting available to our NIHS members featuring Richard Hentschel, Horticulture Educator from the University of Illinois Extension. Mr. Hentschel’s presentation is titled **“Organic Matter Matters”**.

To view this 76-minute video go to the NIHS website www.northernillinoishostsociety.org. You will find several tabs across the top of the navigation bar on the Home page. Go to the far right and click or hover over the tab for the **Members Only** page. You will see 3 topics. Choose/click on **NIHS Virtual Spring Symposium** and you will be asked to enter a password. All NIHS members received an email in April identifying the **Member’s Only password** to participate in the Sponsor Plant sale. Use that same password.

A page will open with a brief description of the presentation. Toward the lower middle part of the page you will see an arrow head located within a circle pointing to the right in the middle of the presentation screen. Click on that arrow to start the video. The video will begin with a bar across the bottom. On the far-right side of that bar will be 2 arrows pointing diagonally away from each other. Click on the arrows to enter a full screen presentation of the video.

The video will begin with some detailed scientific information on the topic. A few minutes into the video everything will evolve into more common principles and language for gardeners. We hope you increase your knowledge of how to improve your garden soil’s health.

NOTE: As requested by Richard and the University of Illinois Extension this video will only be available for 60 days.

Caution! With Enhanced Roundup

by Libby Greanya

The scientist who discovered and named the Emerald Ash borer in the United States after its introduction to southeastern Michigan in 2002 – Dr David Roberts, PhD – spoke at the Jackson Men's Garden Club lecture series on April 21, 2017, about the dangers of Imazapic and Imazapyr, ingredients found in Enhanced Roundup. In 1970, scientist John Franz discovered the molecule glyphosate, which would become the active ingredient in Monsanto's original Roundup herbicide formula. Glyphosate is non-selective, meaning it will kill all plants on contact, whereas previously Monsanto was selling selective herbicides that left crops unharmed.

These initial formulas were problematic because they had a tendency to be washed into streams and ground water, affecting fish and wildlife. But glyphosate products were more environmentally friendly than previous formulas because they decomposed into natural products like carbon dioxide, ammonia, and phosphoric acid, therefore it was safer to humans and wildlife. So began Roundup's glyphosate formula's rule of the herbicide markets in the later 1970s.

Now that the patent on Roundup has expired, there is a proliferation of "New" products by Monsanto and many other herbicide companies – a new formula that is even more powerful than glyphosate-based Roundup, but much deadlier to non-target plants like trees, grass, and other ornamentals. Imazapic or imazapyr is a water-soluble herbicide which can run off to nontarget species. And guess how long the product "Roundup 365" lasts? That's right, these



formulas don't break down for a year, sterilizing the soil! Photo from Amazon.com Roundup has been hiding this chemical in a lot of their products, but many other companies are utilizing it too. Keep an eye out for Barrier, Ortho Groundclear, Sahara, Mohave, 9 Arsenal, Assault, etc.

Always read labels! Amazingly the instructions usually say to apply these chemicals to driveways, side-walks, etc. where it can run off and kill or negatively impact your grass, shrubs, and trees! Dr. Roberts showed many examples of collateral chemical damage people have accidentally caused using these products. Even "professionals" are making the mistake of using products with imazapic or imazapyr near trees and shrubs, because the directions are misleading. Some of the tree damage was a hundred yards from the source of the spray (the sidewalk weeds).

Repeat – this herbicide is water soluble = run off effects! The tree damage in pic above was a tragic, expensive and totally avoidable mistake. Look in your herbicide collection for products that contain Imazapic or Imazapyr. Spread the word – if your neighbor is using it, your plants are at risk from run-off. Note: plain Roundup (glyphosate) is not water soluble and not long lasting, so it is considered to be safer.

Reprinted from the Michigan Hosta Society newsletter, Michigan Hosta Happenings April 2020.

**MRHS CONVENTION RESCHEDULED FOR
JULY 14 – 16, 2022**

THE COVID-CURSED CONVENTION first planned and postponed for 2020, then 2021, is now officially back on the MRHS schedule for **July 14 – 16, 2022, in Lisle, IL**. The virus appears to be in retreat, more people receive vaccinations each week, and signs point to a more benign environment next year, when Covid should not be the dominating factor in our lives.

Hostas Chicago Style will be hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society (NIHS), and we are trying to make this convention unique: Speakers you haven't heard before to educate and excite you. Fabulous gardens where other distinctive plants and unique designs share top billing with hostas. Two new cultivars from Bob Solberg as choices for a gift hosta. An evening garden visit. A Chicago-style pizza party.

Of course, the features you've always expected at hosta conventions remain part of this one. Reunions with hosta friends. Vendors with the newest hosta cultivars, companion plants and other items for your garden. Hosta leaf show. Seedling display. Good old-fashioned midwestern hospitality.

Make plans now to be part of it, and join fellow hosta lovers in Chicago's western suburb of Lisle for **Hostas Chicago Style, July 14 - 16, 2022**. **Mark your calendars now, and keep an eye out for new developments on the MRHS website, <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>.**



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.

WE'RE GOING
Virtual!

Join us!
JULY 15–17, 2021

AHS2021.org



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION
KALAMAZOO, MI

While we're incredibly disappointed that we won't be able to enjoy the fellowship of friends and other hosta lovers in person, it creates a wonderful opportunity to put on the first-ever virtual AHS convention! The team in Kalamazoo is planning an exciting, action-packed virtual event!

Registration is now open! Visit the convention website at www.ahs2021.org to register for the event being held **July 15–17**.

- *You'll also learn more about all the great activities and opportunities, like the convention gift Hosta 'Silly String' (mailed to each registrant)*
- *Schedule for speakers, workshops, judges clinics, and more*
- *On-demand, professionally recorded virtual garden tours*
- *Seedling photo competition*
- *And much more! More details about other activities are coming soon, so keep checking the website for updates*
- *As a reminder, registration is **\$49 per household**.*

The Bigger, the Better Part II: Growing Humongous Hostas

by Don Rawson

Hostas are wonderful plants. Found in nearly every garden center and nursery across America, hostas are some of the easiest perennials to grow. With a great variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, most members of the genus are reliable stalwarts of the garden, returning year after year without much muss and fuss to the gardener. In fact, some folks - perhaps you - have an extensive collection of every kind imaginable, numbering into the tens, hundreds, or thousands.

However, if you are like me, having a sizeable number of hostas which are grown poorly is not as gratifying a growing a handful to their greatest potential. It is somewhat embarrassing to have friends walk through the garden when it is weedy and unkempt... and when the hostas, along with their companions, are struggling to survive.

Conversely, it surely is more inviting to wander through a shady glade which is luscious and



Above, *Hosta 'Abba Dabba Do'*. Below, *H. 'Sageae' (L)* & *H. Krossa Regal (R)* with Pam Rawson. Pics by Don Rawson

vibrant, full of life and bursting with excitement, flourishing with the most enormous specimens ever encountered!

In Part II of this series, we are covering Tips #4 - 6 on how to provide the perfect environment for cultivating some giants in your own personal sanctuary. I invite you to join me on this journey to nurture these jaw-dropping mammoths to their largest dimensions.

Tip #4: Select a Cultivar that gets BIG

Let's face it - small and medium hostas have their place in the garden, but they will never, ever get BIG. It's in the genes. Simply put, to have BIG hostas, you must select the ones that get BIG.



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The Bigger, the Better Part II: Growing Humongous Hostas

continued

In my opinion, miniatures are fun and cute, but they just don't pack the punch that the goliaths can give. It's simply about choosing the right hybrids. Some recommendations are 'Blue Angel', 'Blue Mammoth', 'Empress Wu', 'Komodo Dragon', 'Sum and Substance', and 'T Rex', but there are many more that "fit the bill". For a complete list, go to www.hostalists.org and click on "Very Large Hostas".

Just remember that planting a hosta that can become large is not a guarantee that it will do so! There are various requirements which must be met. Following the steps in this series will help to ensure it.

Tip #5: Allow Enough Space

Giant hostas can become several feet in diameter. While standing in a crowd shoulder-to-shoulder is okay for a moment, it's no fun for the long haul. Give your hostas plenty of room! Fill the area between with smaller plants which are easier to move than the large ones. After all, the last thing we want to do is to be transplanting very large, mature hostas if we can avoid it.

When choosing a site to grow these mammoths, stop and think about how large they will really become. The most enormous varieties can sometimes eventually

span eight feet or more. Generally, large hostas look best when they are just touching leaf tips... so hostas which reach eight feet wide should be spaced eight feet apart. While it may seem a little extreme to leave this much space between individual plants, it will become more apparent as each one matures. Meanwhile, bare areas can be interplanted with smaller varieties or used to display garden art.



Hosta 'Sum & Substance' with Pam Rawson

Plant tags and catalogues may not provide accurate plant dimensions. Begin by checking The Hostapedia for the size of each cultivar at maturity. Then, when laying out your gardening plot, make sure to leave enough room so that one is not encroaching on the territory of

another.

Tip #6: Provide Adequate Light

Recently, I read somewhere that hostas absolutely love shade. It went on to say that they languish in the hot afternoon sun. While it is true that hostas may experience some burnt leaf edges when grown in full sun, hostas are NOT shade loving - they are somewhat

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The Bigger, the Better: Growing Humongous Hostas

continued

shade tolerant! Most cultivars do fine when grown in a good amount of sunlight. They often benefit from periods of sun exposure to keep their foliage vibrant and colorful. Overall, filtered sunlight and high overhead shade are best, and full sun for fragrant hostas.

In the South, some varieties will scorch in the hot afternoon sun, but all hostas, nevertheless, need some sunlight to grow. Like other plants, hostas receive energy through photosynthesis. No energy, no growth.

In fact, in the North, most hostas will grow well in full sun if given an ample supply of water, so evaluate your site to confirm there's adequate sunlight for optimum growth. It may surprise you how fast and large your hostas will get if grown in areas of bright sunlight when the other conditions are met. You will notice that the leaves get even larger in a semi-sunny location if your plants are regularly watered and fertilized.

Needless to say, don't buy a hosta in a tiny pot (even if it is a large-growing variety) and then plant it in deep shade... unless you want it to stay small forever! Spend a little more to purchase a large pot and get a jump-start, then provide it with plenty of light and water.

In the next edition, we will cover three more tips on growing huge hostas to their fullest potential - because when it comes to hostas: the bigger, the better!

Reprinted from Michigan Hosta Society Hosta Happenings Jan 2021

Hosta in Full Sun? Oh My, No!

By Joan Poos

One of the questions I am frequently asked is "What hosta do you have that will grow in my very sunny yard?" In the past I have repeated snippets of information I have gleaned from books, **The Hosta Journal** and the internet. Unfortunately my husband and I now have firsthand knowledge of this subject.

Last December we watched a giant crane slowly dismantle our dying 80 year old shingle oak, a tree that anchored a large part of our shade garden. This spring we were astounded by how much area that tree's canopy covered. More than 150 hosta were suddenly stripped of their protective covering. Almost all were in all-day sun! As you know, full sun in St. Louis is brutal. We spent the pandemic months moving our precious plants.

While none of these plants went unscathed, some fared better than others. Some cultivars benefit from periods of sun exposure to

keep their foliage vibrant and colorful, but it is not recommended that any remain in full sun all the time as the leaves may burn and turn brown. Too much sun exposure may also cause foliage to fade. We found all this to be true.



H. 'Paradigm' handles more sun than most.

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Hosta in Full Sun? Oh My, No!

continued

Characteristics that may influence the ability to withstand the sun's intensity are color, fragrance and substance. Yellow and gold, solid or variegated have more of a chance than others. As expected all of the blue hosta quickly lost their wax coating and turned green, faded and lackluster. Some such as 'Wishing Well' started to turn crispy. Others, like 'Skywriter', only lost their blue color. The same was true of the golds. 'Tijuana Brass' looked like someone had spilled bleach on it. To its immediate right was 'Regal Splendor' which lived up to its name, losing only its beautiful color. 'Golden Sculpture' lasted until the first part of August before the edges and tips burned badly turning to lace.

Many hosta with fragrant flowers fall into the sun tolerant group. These usually have descended from *Hosta plantaginea* which is a sun tolerant Chinese native. Indeed, 'Fragrant Bouquet' and 'Guacamole' do quite well in our garden having some sun protection, but not much.

Supposedly, plants that tolerate sun generally have thicker leaves. 'Sum and Substance' and 'June' did well, but 'Rhino Hide' which has very thick almost plastic leaves, burned quickly. 'June' changed colors, going from dark blue-green to light shades of green. Not nearly as striking in my opinion.

The nice thing about hosta is that they can be moved at any time. Try your plant in the sun and see how it fares. If you see signs of stress like brown leaf edges, dull color or faded spots on leaves, move it. Most important of all, don't forget to water, water, water.

Some other plants in our yard that handle more sun than most: 'Sum and Substance', 'Moon Waves', 'Paradigm', 'Crocodile Rock', 'Leola Fraim', 'Green Acres', and 'Krossa Regal'.
Reprinted from Sept 2020, newsletter of the St Louis Hosta Society



Sun-damaged Hosta 'Wishing Well'



Sun-damaged Hosta 'Tijuana Brass'

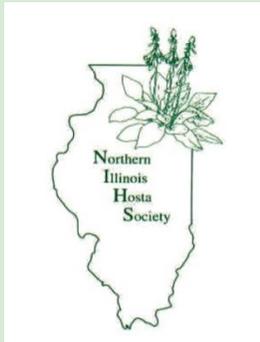


Sun-damaged Hosta 'Regal Splendor'

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.



Embrace the serenity of June Vandervest's garden on our Hosta Garden Walk July 11 in Downers Grove, above left



Marvel at the colorful garden scenarios in Joe Jansen's backyard on our Hosta Garden Walk June 19 in Gurnee, above right



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Experience Mark Rekoske's gorgeous Hosta garden June 5

