



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 76

MARCH 2012

2012

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **March 18, 2012 Pot Luck Dinner & Garden Tool /Accessory Swap, Schaumburg (new date & location)**
- **April 22, 2012 Sponsor Plant Pickup & Guest Speaker , Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines, Guests of Members Welcome, 1-3pm**
- **June 1-3 Hosta Leaf Show & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden,**
- **June 9 Bus Tour to Peoria Area**
- **June 10 Hostality Garden Visit, West Chicago, 2-5pm**
- **June 13-16 American Hosta Society Convention, Nashville, TN**
- **July 8 Hostality Garden Visit, Deerfield, 2- 5**
- **July 12-14 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, Rochester, MN**
- **July 29 Hostality Garden Visit, Elgin, 2-5pm**
- **Aug 12 Plant Auction, Hinsdale Community House - Public Invited, 1-5pm**
- **Sept 9 Hosta Pot Luck, Plant Swap & Annual NIHS Meeting, Downers Grove, 1-4pm**
- **December 2012 Holiday Party, TBA, 1-4pm**

President's Letter

Last fall, in my first letter to you, I talked about transition within the NIHS. This time I'd like to talk about how, from my perspective, that transition is proceeding.

The second meeting of the new NIHS Board held on February 2 is an example. Every single member attended (12 people). All of us were getting a little "antsy" toward the end three hours later, but we stayed because we knew important issues had to be dealt with. Each member was an active participant with something to say and a contribution to make. We didn't always agree, but everyone was respectful of the opinions of others. Most of us are new to the board, but those who have served on it for many years generously provided insights that were most helpful. We've all been NIHS members for several years, but no one insisted, "This is how we've always done things, so let's keep doing it that way."

As I reflect on that meeting, I realize how impressed I am with the talents and dedication of the people who were there, and how lucky we all are as a society that they are willing to do their part and more.



What were the issues facing us that necessitated such a long meeting? Details of most of them are elsewhere in this document, but here is a brief summary of the highlights:

Creation of an NIHS Hosta Garden at Cantigny Park in Winfield

Hosta Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe, June 1 - 3

June 9 NIHS Bus Trip to Peoria area gardens and Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton, IL

Updates and changes to the NIHS Newsletter, some of which you have seen in the last 2 issues

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention: Should we consider being the host Society in 2013?

What all of these activities have in common is that they require a significant volunteer effort from our members if they are to be accomplished successfully.

Continued on page 5

Depart at 7:00 AM Saturday June 9 from the Wyndham Lisle Hotel parking lot located at 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle. Plan on returning approximately 7:30 pm.

Just east of Naperville Road and north of the East-West Tollway, Route I-88. Additional directions will be provided with your confirmation.

We will travel by American Charter Coach to the Peoria area to visit four member gardens of the Central Illinois Hosta Society. **We are teaming with the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society from Champaign. Their bus tour will be about one hour ahead of us visiting the same gardens.** See the Private Gardens descriptions on the facing page.

Something new! We will have a Bus Tour Hosta. These are two new cultivars to be introduced this year. Everyone who goes on this tour will receive a hosta. More information will come with your confirmation.

We will not stop for lunch, so please bring your own (but no alcohol). We go regardless of the weather, so bring an umbrella if it looks like rain. NIHS will provide refreshments on the bus. You will not go hungry!

We are limited to 52 persons - so sign up early to be assured of a place on the bus.

Please arrive by 6:45 AM as we will leave promptly at 7:00 AM sharp.

NO PRIVATE CARS WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE TOUR PAST THE DEPARTURE POINT. NO SPECIAL PICK UP POINTS.

**COSTS: \$40 NIHS MEMBER OR MEMBER SPOUSE
\$50 GUESTS (includes one year NIHS MEMBERSHIP)
\$50 LATE ENTRIES AFTER 5/1**

QUESTIONS: EMAIL ANDY CAMPBELL AT andycamp@flash.net OR CALL HOME: 847-695-0021 CELL: 847-209-8455

NIHS BUS TOUR 2012 PEORIA AREA GARDENS AND HORNBAKER GARDENS, PRINCETON, IL

Saturday June 9

Reserve your seat now and use the Bus Trip Order Form on page 8.

HORNBAKER GARDENS will be our fifth and final stop where we will tour their display gardens and you can shop their excellent selection of hostas and companions. That weekend is also their annual Open House and Hosta Walk. Rich Hornbaker describes his displays gardens as follows:

“The display gardens alone are worth the trip! They have been developed over the 25 years that the Hornbakers have been in business.

Continued page 4



Hosta display garden @ Hornbaker Gardens

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

PRIVATE GARDEN DESCRIPTIONS – NIHS BUS TOUR 2012

The Smith Garden, Groveland, Illinois: Janette Smith's garden features a perennial garden and a hosta garden with about 200 different varieties. It also features a pergola with wisteria vines, fountains and a small private lake. Antique garden elements collected over the years are interspersed throughout the gardens to provide a patina and personality.

The Jones Garden, East Peoria, Illinois: Carolyn and Don Jones are hosta gardeners at heart. However an ice storm a few years ago removed several trees and the garden became more eclectic. With the added sunlight, new favorites have emerged, like coneflowers, coral bells and phlox which provide color and attract both hummingbirds and butterflies. They started with one hosta, given as a gift and quickly became obsessed, with over 450 plants ranging from very large to very small. In addition, ornamental trees like Japanese maple, dogwood and red-bud provide a beautiful spring display. Carolyn's new interest brings whimsy to the garden with fairies, gnomes and moss as well as many varieties of ferns and grasses. Gardening is a great way to enjoy nature and bring beauty to the world. They love sharing their garden and hope you enjoy your visit.

The McConnell Garden, Dunlap, Illinois: Dan McConnell enjoys writing as well as gardening as you will find from his garden description. "In the movie, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, there is the scene where the title characters, train robbers, are being pursued by the railroad marshals. When it appears the outlaws cannot evade the posse, Sundance (Robert Redford) asks, 'What's the plan?' Butch Cassidy (Paul Newman) replies, 'Plan? Heck kid, I'm making this up as we go along.' This describes our garden... we're just making it up as we go along.

It all started when we put in the lawn after building our home. It was early spring. The grass grew and looked good. Then the trees leafed out, summer came and one morning we looked out and the grass was gone. I don't mean it had thinned or we had a few bare spots, it was completely gone. Welcome to deep shade!

Then we discovered hostas. We began the accumulation phase of hosta addiction, where the idea is to get as many different hostas as possible. We did not worry about color, size or texture. We were going for volume.

Now we have lots of hostas, accompanied by hydrangeas, coral bells, ferns, sedum and various other plantings. Like your garden, ours keeps evolving. We try new plants, move old ones and re-work planting areas. We enjoy our time outside and have tried to make our yard comfortable and relaxing for our family, friends and especially our granddaughters. All this while making sure the deer have a varied and healthy diet."

The Dye Garden, Edelstein, Illinois: Kay Dye began her garden when they moved to their home on almost two acres in 1990. "I immediately began planting on a steep bank in front of the house by the street because it was ugly clay and eroded. After that I moved to the rest of the yard which is mostly dappled shade from large white and red oaks, hickories and some other trees. At first it was mostly a hosta garden. I then joined our local Peoria club and the national club, went to some conventions and felt I needed to have every cultivar offered. After a serious infection of nematodes and crown rot, I started throwing away any hosta that showed a sign of either. So, what I have today is fewer hostas. Today's hostas are larger since I can't move them around due to fear of replanting them where diseased hosta once lived. Now I am interested in other plants that will fill in all the spaces left after I took out the hostas. I am seriously into Japanese maples, hydrangeas that bloom on old wood, ferns, & epimediums. I waited five years before I let anyone into my garden after the nematodes struck. I actually like my garden more now because of the diversity of plants. Plus, I discovered rebar and all that could be created with it. I like to think my garden is ever changing, although I am trying to create low maintenance areas, since I think I'm about at the end of being able to heft an 80 lb. bag of concrete."



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

New Member Welcome to

Jeannine Mlynski, Naperville

**Ralph Ebbing & Peggy Rutkowski,
Lemont**

Teddy, Harold, Randy, Helen &

Shana Goldman, Northbrook

Hornbaker continued

“Visitors are encouraged to stroll through mature plantings of hosta and other perennials in both sun and shade environments. **The famous Hosta Ravine is full of mature hosta and shade loving companion plants.**

Three ponds and two pondless waterfalls are built into the display gardens. The largest water feature is a 40’ diameter pond, fed by a meandering 150’ stream with eight waterfalls. A strong interest in unusual trees and shrubs has led us to a constantly expand our arboretum. Besides a large collection of shade and ornamental trees, there are many dwarf conifers scattered throughout the display beds.”



Join the NIHS by contacting Kristine James , Membership Chairman, 523 E. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098 with your check for \$20. Please include your e-mail address.

Family membership dues are \$20 for 2 years.

Email us at ni.hosta@gmail.com

Call Kristine@ 815-337-4621.

Visit our website @

www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org.

Please send membership renewals to Kristine at the above address. Check the date above your mailing address for your expiration date.

Member Opportunities!!

Vice President for Hospitality Jeanne Boehm has resigned her position for personal reasons. Jeanne was the one who always arrived early at events like the auction to prepare refreshments, or to help hosts at our pot luck meetings. She was most conscientious in performing her role. We thank Jeanne for all she has done; she will be missed. Another member has agreed to accept the position if there is a co-chair, so we need another volunteer. To find out more about what is involved, contact Barbara King at 630-879-2263 or bhk430@mindspring.com.

Holiday Party Host -We are looking for a member to host the 2012 Holiday Party on a Sunday afternoon in early December. NIHS will contribute \$75 toward the cost of the main dish and/or expenses for each gathering plus some people to help you. Contact Barbara King if you can volunteer. Thank you!



Potluck Dinner & Garden Tool/ Accessory Swap Mar 18

Vicki and Allen Eaton will be our hosts for this year's Spring Pot Luck and Accessory Swap at their home at 1501 Coventry Road in Schaumburg. This is the time to renew acquaintances with fellow hosta lovers and share information about our garden plans for the emerging growing season.

Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. with the Pot Luck. The main dish and beverages will be provided, and everyone who comes is asked to bring a dish to pass that will feed at least six people. Our Society has a lot of good cooks who always feed us well and generously, so we can be pretty sure of a tasty, filling meal.

More fun will follow with the Accessory Swap, which is based on the premise that one person's white elephant may turn out to be another's greatest treasure. Participation is not compulsory, but we encourage you to bring a garden-related item in reasonably good shape that you no longer want for whatever reason (you don't know what it is, why you bought it, what it's for—or someone gave it to you and you can't use it, hate it, think it's ugly, etc.) Be sure to wrap your item in a creative but deceptive manner so that other swappers will think it's the greatest thing since the automatic sprinkler. Who knows what you'll take home?

We hope you will be able to come on Sunday March 18th. Please RSVP to the Eatons at 847-882-2879 or performexl@aol.com to let them know what you plan to bring.

Here are the directions to the Eaton home: From the Higgins Road (Route 72) exit on I-290/Route 53, proceed west on Higgins 3.8 miles and turn right onto Churchill Drive. Turn left onto Blenheim Drive, which becomes Chartwell Road. Turn left onto Canterbury Drive, which becomes Coventry Road. Proceed to 1501.

Note: If you have not recently sent in your dues renewal please do it now! [Check the date above your mailing address for your expiration date.](#)

Hostapedia Availability

The Hostapedia, authored by Mark Zilis and published by Q&Z Nursery is the most definitive publication on hostas. This compendium provides descriptions of over 7,400 hosta cultivars and nearly 2,000 color photos. One of our society's missions is the dissemination of knowledge about hostas. To further this objective, NIHS has donated copies of *The Hostapedia* to the following public libraries:

Batavia * Buffalo Grove/Wheeling (Indian Trails) * Crystal Lake * LaGrange * McHenry * Mundelein (Fremont) * Naperville * Northbrook * Orland Park * Park Ridge * St. Charles * Winnetka-Northfield *

Members are encouraged to use this resource. If your local library does not have a copy of *The Hostapedia*, perhaps they will be able to borrow a copy via the Interlibrary Loan system. Don't be surprised, however, if after using *The Hostapedia*, you decide that you need to add a copy to your personal library.

President's Letter continued

I'm sure that there are skills and talents among you that could easily put to good use on behalf of the Society. But we need to hear from you. The Society can't do much without your help.

It was discouraging that we received only one response from among our 185+ members when we asked in our last newsletter for volunteers for two specific tasks. With spring approaching, we are asking again for members to come forward to help with several activities. We have a variety of opportunities that can be tailored to your interests. Look over the articles in this newsletter about upcoming events, and let me or one of the board members know how you would like to be involved.

There is a lot of exciting work to be done. I look forward to working with you. Barbara

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Hosta Display Garden at Cantigny

As I reported at our fall meeting, I have contacted Cantigny Park in Winfield about hosting a NIHS sponsored Hosta Display Garden. They are interested in hosting and have selected a 1,300 square foot bed to begin the project. The next step is for NIHS members to gather the plants which will populate the bed initially. To that end, I request that members who are inclined to do so select some mature divisions from plants that should be represented in any good hosta garden.

Here are the guidelines you are asked to consider:

- ◆ The plants should be true to cultivar name beyond a reasonable doubt.
- ◆ The plants should be free of disease and virus problems to the best of your knowledge.
- ◆ Contact me by May 15th with the names of the cultivars you are willing to donate. I can coordinate your gifts with those of others to avoid duplications.
- ◆ Let me know if you can help with the initial installation of the garden.

All plants in the garden will be identified by cultivar using Cantigny's labeling system. Also, Cantigny will install signage which identifies the garden as compliments of the Northern IL Hosta Society.

If you can help with the donation of plants and/or planting, please contact me at:

lehorton85@ameritech.net or call 630-293-7795.

Lou Horton

Hosta Leaf Display at CBG

Once again NIHS has accepted the Chicago Botanic Garden's invitation to present a leaf "show" at the garden, to be held this year the weekend of June 2 – 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day. As Lou Horton described it last year, "While we call it a 'show' it is actually an unjudged display of leaves designed to demonstrate to the general public that hostas are available in a huge range of colors, shapes, and sizes. The hosta leaves are provided by NIHS members from their own gardens. The only 'judging' is done by members of the public who are invited to vote for their favorite leaf. NIHS members are on hand both Saturday and Sunday to answer questions and chat with visitors about our favorite plant, and vendors are present to fill the demand naturally created by our display."

You may think it's early to start thinking about a June event, but this display can be successfully planned only with the cooperation of our members on whom we rely to provide the leaves and the staff. Nancy Bodinet has agreed to chair this event, as she did last year. She would like to include more leaves this time and asks members to start thinking about which ones they can provide. If you can contribute leaves, let Nancy know (847-550-0897; bodinet@sbcglobal.net). Since the CBG is quite a hike for many of us, we are thinking about the possibility of arranging a few "drop points" throughout the area where one member can collect leaves from several others and get them to the garden. Set-up will be on Friday, June 1.

Also, let Nancy know if you will be able to staff a shift at the show on Saturday or Sunday. Many of you were able to help last year; we hope even more will be able to do so this time.

RICH'S FOXWILLOW PINES NURSERY, INC.



Hosta Sale & Fundraiser

June 9, 2012

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March 1 - November 14: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday (closed Sundays)

November 15 - February 28/29: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday (closed week-

11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098
phone: 815-338-7442 fax: 815-338-7446
email: coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com

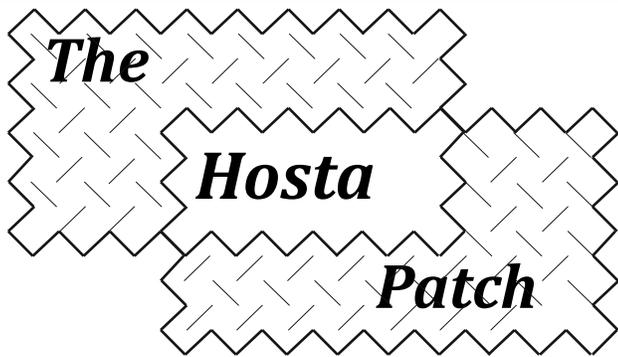


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- * Enjoy spring bloomers

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St Charles

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3 Big Weekends:

**May 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24
& 25**

8:30 am to 3 pm

Peoria Bus Tour June 9 Order Form

QUESTIONS: EMAIL ANDY CAMPBELL AT andycamp@flash.net OR CALL HOME: 847-695-0021 CELL: 847-209-8455

Pls copy this page and mail with your check

Make checks payable to: Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Confirmation and tour schedule will be

Send to: Andy Campbell, 235 Brookside Dr. Elgin, IL 60123

sent by return mail.

NAME: _____

Members: \$40X _____ = \$ _____

Guests: \$50X _____ = \$ _____

Email _____

Late Entries \$50X _____ = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

GUEST NAME: _____

Note: Fees are non-refundable. But I will create a Wait List to help facilitate private transfers if you are unable to attend. No guarantees - but sometimes private placements are possible.

Telephone _____

NIHS Sponsor Plant Order Form

Name _____

Email address: _____

Phone number _____

One of each plant – 4 plants (\$33.50) _____

Spinach Soufflé (\$10) _____ This Medium/Large hosta is a tetraploid sport of Garden Treasure. It was introduced by Bob Solberg in 2006.

World Cup (\$10) _____ A Doug Beilstein creation, this unusual hosta was introduced to the trade by Mark Zilis in 2006. It is a Medium/Large gold with cupped leaves. It has Sum & Substance in its' background.

Empress Wu (\$7.50) _____ Introduced by the late Brian Skaggs in 2008, this is one of a new generation of giant green hostas destined to be ranked among the largest hostas ever developed. A good grower with good substance. You need to give this one lots of room on all sides.

Ann Kulpa (\$6) _____ Introduced in 1999 by John Kulpa this Medium sized hosta is a seedling of famous breeder plant Pin Striped Sister. It is a white centered, green margined plant with good substance.

Important! Order must be accompanied by a check for the full amount made out to NIHS. If you wish confirmation that your order was received, include your email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail your Order Form & check to Lou Horton, 1N735 Ingalton, West Chicago, IL 60185

Introducing the 2012 NIHS Sponsor Plants

This is a very strong group of plants. As in the past, the plants were selected last summer and are being custom grown for us by Q & Z Nursery so that they will be out of dormancy and well grown by the time you receive them in April. They will be in four-inch pots; that means that they will be garden ready as soon as danger of frost has past, assuming that you gradually acclimate them to the outdoor environment.



H. 'Empress Wu' giant green

cannot attend the April meeting and wish to make arrangements to pick up the plants prior to the meeting at my home, you have that option. You can reach me at (630) 293-7735. **Any plants not**



H. 'Ann Kulpa' medium white center

Each member may purchase one each of the four plants, and it is not necessary to order all four.

Please do not request multiples of any plant. Our order is for 25 of each, so it would be best to get your reservation in early.

Any extra plants may be available at the meeting on Sunday, April 22nd, at which all plants must be picked up. The meeting will be held at the Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines at 1PM. As in the past, if you

picked up will be considered a donation to the NIHS. Orders must reach me by Monday April 16th. The plants may all be spoken for well before that date, however. Early orders are advised.

See the descriptions and the Order Form on the facing page. Lou Horton



H. 'World Cup' medium/large gold

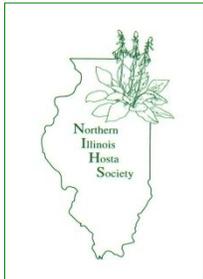


H. 'Spinach Soufflé' medium/large

NIHS Membership Secretary

523 E. Calhoun St.

Woodstock, IL 60098



Address Service Requested

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.



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One of the gorgeous Hornbaker Display Gardens on the June 9 Bus Tour