



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 77

MAY 2012

2012/2013

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **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, Date TBA, 1-4pm, Orland Park**
- **July 11-13, 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention hosted by NIHS, Lisle, IL**

President's Letter

Happy Spring, Everyone!

This year's Spring ritual of watching our hostas push through the soil and grow to full size is drawing to a close. Of course we had a head start with the warm weather in March, so many hostas in my garden—and yours, I'm sure—are in midsummer mode. The compost, mulch and Deadline are down; shouldn't we be able to relax now and enjoy the results of our labors?

The answer is NO because a lot is happening, and we need your help. Here is the latest information on our projects (see board member list for contact information).

First, THANK YOU to those who have helped so much with events this year:

Vicki and Allen Eaton for hosting the March Pot Luck and Garden Accessory Swap at their Schaumburg home in March, to June Vandervest and Jeanne Boehm for helping get everything set up and cleaned up, and to all the NIHS cooks who provided great food. (By the way, if you left some very nice tongs or salad servers at the Eatons', I have them—call me!)



Lou Horton for organizing the Sponsor Plant event on April 22 at the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines. The program featured an excellent presentation on hosta judging by Barb Schroeder, assisted by her husband Rick. They are master gardeners from Champaign, where they founded the Prairie Hosta Society in 2004. Barb has won countless ribbons for her hosta leaves in sanctioned shows.

Lou Horton for planning the Hosta Display Garden at Cantigny Park in Winfield. On May 16 he will oversee planting of the 21 hostas he has received to date. Let him know if you can help that day. Thanks to all the members who have donated specimens for this project. More donations of mature, healthy hostas are welcome; we hope eventually to have at least 40 hostas in

Continued on Page 2

Hosta Leaf Show Needs Your Hosta Leaves

The Hosta Leaf Show & Plant Sale is coming up soon on Sat. & Sun. June 1 & 2 at the beautiful Chicago Botanical Garden (CBG). Coordinator Nancy Bodinet says "This is always a fun event in a gorgeous garden setting with the opportunity to meet people from across the globe." Nancy asks members to please provide a few select hosta leaves from your garden to show the world the variety and beauty of hostas. Continued on Page 2

President's Letter *continued*

the NIHS Garden, so please contact Lou to let him know what varieties you can contribute.

Nancy Bodinet for coordinating this year's Hosta Leaf Display and Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden on June 2 and 3, with set-up on Friday, June 1. Nancy reports that last year, she could have used more leaves. Please contact her at 847-550-0897 to let her know what you can contribute to help make this year's show a big success. Another BTW: If any NIHS member wishes to become a member of the Chicago Botanic Garden, you will receive \$10 off your individual dues because NIHS is a member organization.

Andy Campbell and John Van Ostrand for organizing this year's June 9 bus trip to visit gardens in the Peoria area and Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton. Several seats have become available from members who have paid but find they can't go, and other openings frequently occur at the last minute. Contact Andy to purchase those seats—friends of members are welcome, too.

Pete Postlewaite for organizing this year's "Hostatality Walk-About Garden Visits;" the dates are June 10, July 8, and July 29. Specific information about each garden is in this newsletter. Having performed this service for 20 years, Pete is ready to relinquish the responsibility. Anyone interested in overseeing the garden selection process should let me know. It's such an important job—the garden walks are our most popular events.

I've saved the most important item on the NIHS horizon for last. At our March 24 Board Meeting, we voted to host the 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention here in the Chicago area July 11 - 13. After negotiations with several hotels, led by Pete Postlewaite and Lou Horton, we have selected the Hilton Lisle to provide the physical accommodations and meals for the convention. Aside from giving us the best price, the Hilton Lisle offers the most convenient location and the best arrangement of facilities for convention functions.

Over the coming weeks, we will be working to address and organize all the additional tasks that are part of having a successful convention. I think it's important that as many members as possible be involved in this project, and the convention committee is going to need a lot of volunteers as we move from planning to doing. I'm sure that many of you have skills we don't know about that could be very helpful. Sometimes the skill we need most is just a willingness to pitch in. We'll be able to be more specific about needs in the next newsletter. In the meantime, be thinking about the

NIHS BUS TOUR 2012 PEORIA AREA GARDENS AND HORNBAKER GARDENS, PRINCETON, IL Saturday June 9 *Seats Are Available*

role you can play in this effort, and let us know what you would like to do.

There is a convention issue with which you can help right now. One of the first tasks to be addressed is the selection of gardens to be on the garden tour, the major attraction of any convention. This time tours will be self-guided because buses are so expensive; we plan to provide explicit garden descriptions and maps to attendees. The up side of this arrangement is that more gardens can be on the tour. A preliminary list is being developed, and we would welcome your input on great gardens that you think should be considered, including your own.

So let us hear from you.

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you in one or more of the gardens.

Barbara

Hosta Leaf Show *continued*

Participation is easy. All you need do is provide

- ◆ A cleaned pristine hosta leaf
- ◆ Properly named (attach the name with duct tape to the leaf stem)
- ◆ Enter as many specimens as you wish

Drop-off your leaves either at the CBG on Sat June 1 between 8:30—9:00am or contact one of the following members:

- ◆ North—Nancy Bodinet, Lake Zurich 847-550-0897
- ◆ West—Lou Horton, West Chicago 630-293-7735
- ◆ Far West— Barbara King, Batavia 630-879-2263

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**HOSTALITY WALK-ABOUT
GARDEN VISITS**

June 10th at Lou Horton's garden in West Chicago
2:00 – 5:00.

Lou's 28 year-old garden covers 1½ acres, most of which is covered by a grove of large oak and hickory trees. Two large beds along the front of the property are planted with sun-loving perennials, including many daylilies. Lou's garden includes over 275 hosta varieties (with a preference for larger cultivars), intermixed with shade-loving grasses, ferns, and other perennials. The hostas are especially well grown, and include a number of seldom seen specimens.

Lou's garden also incorporates a wide variety of shrubs and ornamental trees, including a number of Magnolia, Japanese Maple, Hydrangea, and Viburnum species. Lou also raises exotic poultry, and has installed a landscaped pen housing ducks in the garden.

Driving Directions: The destination is 1N735 Ingalton in West Chicago. From the intersection of Route 59 and Route 64 (North Ave), go south about 3/4 of a mile. Turn right (west) at the second stoplight (Hawthorne Lane). Turn left at the first street (Ingalton), and proceed to 1N735, the second house on the left.

Or from the South:

Go north on Route 59 into West Chicago. Look for the landmark of the Egg Yolk Cafe Restaurant on the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 59 (Neltnor in West Chicago) and Washington. It is a signaled intersection. Turn left (west) on Washington and proceed to the second street (Ingalton). Turn right onto Ingalton and proceed to 1N 735, about 3/4 of a mile on the right side.

July 8th This is a "two-fer" opportunity to see two wonderful gardens located a block apart in Deerfield:

Bob Gottlieb's garden 2:00 – 5:00. Bob blames it all on Martha. About 17 years ago Bob was watching a

Martha Stewart show where Martha was in the garden of a hosta gardener. He found the plants fascinating. Their colors, sizes, textures were something he had never encountered previously. It was love at first sight.

Bob found out Milaeger's had a nice selection of hostas. He picked out half a dozen plants and got started.

In 1997 Bob got the itch to expand his hosta collection and began the first of three legs to encircle his backyard with hostas. With the help of Robyn Duback of Robyn's Nest in Washington, Bob planted 30+ hostas. Each of the next two years Bob planted an additional leg of the garden. From that point on there was no holding him back. It became a true love affair. Bob now has more than 450 different hosta varieties.

This year Bob enlarged his bed of minis, dwarfs and smalls to exceed 50 hostas. Many are in raised brick towers to bring the experience closer to your eye.

In addition to hostas, Bob also has heuchera, heucherella, brunnera, astilbe, pulmonaria, and many other shade perennials in his garden.

Bob also collects kaleidoscopes, and will have dozens of kaleidoscopes available for viewing. Make sure to check out his kaleidoscope in the garden.

Sam and Andi Solomon's garden 2:00 – 5:00. Situated under mature shade trees, the Solomons' garden includes 195 varieties of hostas (ranging in size from minis to very large), along with a diverse mixture of companion plants. Stone paths attractively wind their way through the entire yard in such a way that the viewer wonders what may be around the next bend. As a result, the garden seems bigger than it is.

Sam and Andi relish foliage plants, and their garden includes three dozen stunning coleus, one hundred caladiums, ornamental grasses, and elephant ears.
Continued on Page 4

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOSTALITY WALK- ABOUT GARDEN VISITS

Continued from Page 3 The caladium bulbs are started indoors on a heating mat starting in April, and the coleus are carried over from year to year by taking cuttings. There is also a mix of annuals and perennials interspersed throughout, along with several varieties of hydrangeas.

Driving Directions to Bob Gottlieb: The destination is 675 Carlisle Ave. From the intersection of Waukegan Road (Route 43) and Deerfield Road, proceed east on Deerfield Road .7 mi. to Carlisle Avenue and turn right. Proceed to 675.

Driving Directions from Bob Gottlieb to Sam and Andi Solomon: The destination is 620 Carriage Way. Proceed north on Carlisle Avenue to Deerfield Road, and turn right. Proceed .2 mi. to Carriage Way and turn right. Proceed to 620.

July 29th at Dennis & Connie Hood's garden in Elgin, 2:00 – 5:00. Hood's Hosta Habitat is the joint effort of Dennis and Connie Hood. It began about 10 years ago with a few hostas brought from a previous home in Janesville, WI. Most of the hostas were common ones that were placed around the base of numerous century oaks. Four large hostas including Blue Angel, Green Angel, Sum and Substance and Elegans were given to us by a friend. They became focal points in the front yard.

In the process of filling in our landscaping we made the mistake of going to a commercial garden supplier who actually labeled 25 different hostas. Unbelievable! Since then our original hostas have been joined by over 550 other hostas, from Teaspoon in our Tiny Treasures garden to Hercules in our Land of the Giants garden.

In addition, our 10 x 15 Frog Lagoon now is only one of 12 water features, including Angel Falls and Bubbling Urn. As you can tell, we love hostas, but we also enjoy daylilies, coral bells, astilbes etc., etc. The stately oaks have also been joined by an

undercover of Japanese Maples, Tri Color Beech and other ornamental trees. Do we like to collect? Our half-acre offers numerous places to sit and listen to the sounds of nature. If you are really quiet, you might even hear a Great Blue Heron, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Leopard Frog, or even Mama Raccoon and her babies. The Habitat is a pinch of whimsy, thrown in with a dash of spontaneity, held together by hard labor and a whole bunch of love. It is an unfinished, never ending fantasy that lives on in the hearts of these two enduring collectors.

Driving Directions: The destination is 39W692 Lori Lane in Elgin. From the intersection of Randall Road and Route 20 on the north, proceed south 1.8 miles to Bowes Road and turn right (west). Proceed 2.8 miles to Nesler Road and turn right. Proceed to Lori Lane (first street on the right) and turn right. Go to 39W692.

or

From the intersection of Randall Road and Route 64 on the south, proceed north 6.6 miles to Bowes Road and turn left (west). Proceed 2.8 miles to Nesler Road and turn right. Proceed to Lori Lane (first street on the right) and turn right. Go to 39W692.

2012 MRHS Convention Information

You're invited to participate in "Operation Hosta", hosted by Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE MN July 12-14, 2012. We're excited to host the 2012 MRHS Convention at the Ramada Hotel and Canadian Honker Convention Center in Rochester, MN. We have the cure for your hosta addiction! Join other hostaholics from Region 5 and beyond to tour our finest hosta gardens, view an exciting leaf show, shop our premier hosta vendors, participate in a lively hosta auction, and enjoy our hostality for a convention to be remembered.

The registration deadline is June 7 (late registration fee required after that) – a few weeks away, so please send in your registrations now and make your reservations soon. You can register online with a credit card – follow the MRHS convention links at www.soghs.org or midwesthostasociety.org.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

New Member Welcome

to

Sonja and Bob Riggs, Elgin

Mary Sieverin, Oak Creek, WI

Al Van Maren, Harvard

**Carol and Edgar Yee, Western
Springs**

Marilou and Bob Kay, Batavia



Join the NIHS by contacting Kristine James , Membership Chairman, 523 E. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098 with your check for \$20. Please include your name(s), address, phone #, and current email 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.

You Might be a Redneck Gardener If:

You mow your lawn and find a wheelbarrow.

A half moon reminds you of your fat husband pulling weeds.

You think a chain saw is a musical instrument.

You move your refrigerator and the grass underneath it is yellow.

You don't water your front yard rather than mow it.

You know how many bags of fertilizer your car can hold.

You've ever cleaned your house with a leaf blower.

You empty the trash when you have enough to fill up the pickup.

You can amuse yourself for more than an hour with a hose.

You've been cited for reckless driving on a riding lawn mower.

You move your weed-eater to take a bath.

- Culled and Revised by Mike Garofalo

Holiday Party

Many thanks to Rosalie & Frank Gamauf who will host the December Holiday Party in Orland Park. Exact date to be announced.

Member Opportunities!!

Newsletter Help Wanted - looking to expand the newsletter staff to improve the product. We need an **Assistant Editor** to collect and/or write articles for the newsletter. Qualifications are a facility with people and words, use of email, and good organizational skills. Contact Ron Asselborn

Advertising Manager to build relationships with our advertisers and potential advertisers and sell advertising space. Qualifications include people skills and an eye for design. Familiarity with graphics and sales a plus but not necessary. No travel necessary. Contact Ron Asselborn

Over-run by Mice!

By Bob Leask, From Ontario Hosta Society Newsletter, Spring 2010.

Once upon a time there was a hosta named **Minnie Mouse** from Keith Squires but, upon threat of possible legal implications of a trademark, the name was changed to **Missie Mouse** when registered. But recently we have had one introduced as **Mighty Mouse**, so who knows where this will take us. But it certainly has kindled the interest in small hostas.

We have been inundated by the pesky little creatures over the last couple of years. With the promotion of **Blue Mouse Ears** (BME) as Hosta of the Year, we have been simply overwhelmed with the offspring and variations. It is rumored to be a sport of Blue Cadet.

Green Mouse Ears followed shortly but was this just a reversion to its natural color or a sport of Blue Mouse Ears?

Blue Mouse Ears Supreme is a streaked sport of BME and is similar to Royal Mouse Ears.

Cat and Mouse is a thick-leaved, medio-variegated sport of BME with a chartreuse interior and an uneven blue-green margin. Shades of green overlap.

Mighty Mouse is a streaked sport and Pure Heart is the white-centered form to accompany it (for you comic fans).

Mouse Tracks, a cute little streaked hosta out of Mighty Mouse, features various yellows and creamy whites that streak throughout its blue/green leaves.

One Iota is a variegated sport of BME with a light green/cream edge on dark green. This is a forced sport by Jim Anderson and of course there is a streaked form as well.

Snow Mouse is a BME sport from Marco Fransen with a white center surrounded by a blue-green border. Leaves are very thick.

Royal Mouse Ears is a variegated sport of BME, which is medium blue-green with cream-colored streaks. It is deeply cupped and is dull on top with a glaucous bloom underneath.



Hosta Blue Mouse Ears

Frosted Mouse Ears is a tissue culture sport out of Royal Mouse Ears developed at Q & Z featuring a wide, creamy white margin, a blueish green center and thick substance.

Holy Mouse Ears is another sport from RME and features thick white leaves with uneven blue-green margins.

Each of the above usually produces a cute little clump of lavender flowers about 3 or 4 inches above the foliage. They make interesting displays in troughs and planters and at the front of beds—hopefully raised so they can be appreciated.



Hosta Frosted Mouse Ears



Hosta Happenings Newsletter Delivery Changing

Recently the NIHS Board reviewed the costs & efficacy of continuing to deliver *Hosta Happenings* via USPS. Feedback from members regarding the new partial-color *Hosta Happenings* has been overwhelmingly positive. But current costs of mailing 200 copies of this improved newsletter four times per year will exceed \$2,400 annually. These costs will likely increase due to rising postage and printing costs.

Instead of doubling your annual NIHS dues the Board agreed to a dual newsletter delivery system that will control costs and provide members delivery options.

- ◆ One delivery option will maintain USPS-mailed printed copies in black & white only, limited to 8 pages.
- ◆ The second and recommended option is to provide you a full-color vibrant newsletter with expanded content via email delivery.

The newsletter you are reading today is the black & white USPS-mailed version – the default option. To continue to receive this black & white version in the future you need not do anything.

However, If you desire to change to the vibrant, expanded, full-color email newsletter version you must send an email to Kristine James, Membership Secretary, @ NI.hosta@gmail.com. Please include your name and current email address. You will then be subscribed & will receive the full color electronic version of the newsletter in place of the black white paper format.

Switching to email delivery will also save NIHS considerable expense. The potential for expanding the content of our email newsletter is the most exciting part of this initiative. Email newsletters cost virtually zero for a virtually unlimited number of pages. So, vote for quality, color, content & low costs – email Kristine James today!

Draft of Minutes of NIHS Board Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2012

President Barb King called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. In attendance: Andy Campbell, Penny Fulkerson, Dennis & Connie Hood, Lou Horton, Kristine James, Pete Postlewaite, Mark Rekoske and June Vandervest.

Treasurer's report was given by Dennis Hood. Balance on hand as of 2-29 is \$11,251.96. Dennis is working on filing a tax return for a non-profit organization. To find some of the missing information he needs it was suggested that he contact Bob Carlson and/or Laurie Sktzenta.

Lou is coordinating the Hosta Garden at Cantigny. He received a "wish list" of plants from Cantigny. Board members signed up for plant donations. We will try to tie the opening of this garden with the 20th anniversary of NIHS.

Pete and Lou reported on hosting the MRHS Convention in 2013. Dates are July 11-13. They checked on 3 different venues: Wyndham Hotel in Lisle, Hilton in Lisle, Hilton Indian Lakes in Bloomingdale. The venues were evaluated by a number of criteria including location, room rates, guarantees required and meeting room charges. MRHS has agreed to help us if we fall short on guarantees. A major emphasis will be cost, trying to keep registration at \$100.00. Two dinner meals are included; attendees would be on their own for other meals. Garden tours will be self-guided. Vendors should be aggressively pursued and names should be published ahead of time. The Board agreed to host the convention and to pursue negotiating with the Wyndham as the convention site. Pete will check on the cost of adding a few additional amenities. Editor's Note—the site has been changed to the Hilton Lisle.

The next newsletter will be an 8-page black and white mailing. Members will be directed to respond if they want to receive the color, on-line version in the future. We must also be clear that they will not be receiving a mailed copy if they are receiving the on-line version. Kristine will handle the responses. Meeting was adjourned at noon.

RICH'S FOXWILLOW PINES NURSERY, INC.



Hosta Sale & Fundraiser

June 9, 2012

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hosta sales benefit
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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-

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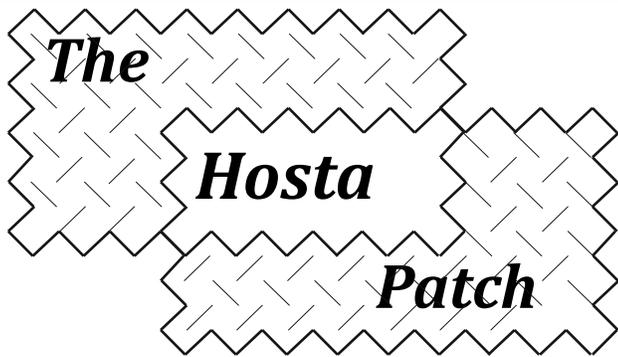
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Advertising Rates for NIHS

Hosta Happenings

Per issue Per year

Full page	\$60	\$150
½ page	35	90
¼ page	20	55

Send electronic copy to my email, and your paper check,
made payable to NIHS, to Ron Asselborn 39W925 Deer
Run Dr, Campton Hills, IL 60175.

Articles Wanted

I eagerly accept input including pictures and articles
for the Newsletter. I encourage your contributions.
The cutoff date for the next issue of Hosta Happen-
ings is June 24. Please contact me by any of the fol-
lowing methods:

Email: editor@NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org

Mail: see above address



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.



See all the Hostality gardens June 10, July 8 & July 29. Above is Bob Gottlieb's Garden



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See all the Hostality gardens June 10, July 8 & July 29. Below is Dennis & Connie Hood's Garden

