

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 79

NOVEMBER 2012

2012/2013

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **December 2, 2012 Holiday Party, 1– 4pm, @ Gamauf's, Orland Park**
- **Jan 19, 2013 Winter Scientific Meeting, 8 - 5 pm, Wyndham Hotel, Lisle, IL**
- **March Pot Luck Dinner & Tool/Accessory swap, Date TBA, Host Needed**
- **April 21 Sponsor Plant Pickup & Guest Speaker, 1-3pm Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines, Guests Welcome**
- **June 1-2 Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, 10-4pm, Chicago Botanical Garden**
- **June 13-15 American Hosta Society Convention, Milwaukee, WI**
- **June 29 Bus Tour, 8am-8pm, NW Indiana includes Tailgate Party & Auction**
- **July 11-13, 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention hosted by NIHS, Lisle, IL**
- **July 21 Hostality Walk-About Garden Visit, 2-5pm, Oakbrook**
- **August Hostality Walk-About Garden Visit, TBA, Host Needed**
- **August 11, Plant Auction—Open to Public, 1-4pm, Hinsdale Community House**
- **September PotLuck & Plant Swap & Annual Meeting, TBA– Host Needed**
- **December Holiday Party, TBA Host Needed**

## President's Letter

What a year it's been! So much has been happening, it's hard to keep up. Our decision early this year to host next summer's Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, and the work involved in planning it, has probably overshadowed some of the other important things we are doing. So I would like to put the convention aside for now—to recognize other activities of NIHS since the 2011 Annual Meeting, and the people involved.

Last spring marked the beginning of our association with Cantigny Garden in Winfield, where an NIHS Hosta Garden was established under Lou Horton's tutelage. For the first stage, members donated approximately 40 different hosta specimens, then gathered on a designated workday to plant them. The Can-



tigny staff provides care and signage. Plans are afoot to add to this collection in the spring of 2013.

Lou Horton and Nancy Bodinet took charge of what has become an annual 2-day event at the Chicago Botanic Garden the first weekend in June: The Hosta Leaf Display and Sale. While no official count was taken, it seems that a few hundred people visited the display room to see nearly 200 near-perfect hosta

*Continued on page 2*

## JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT THE NIHS HOLIDAY PARTY!

Everyone is invited to come to our annual gathering with no agenda and no responsibilities other than to relax, visit with NIHS friends, and savor the sparkle of the season.

**When:** Sunday, December 2, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** The home of Rosalie and Frank Gamauf, 7880 Forestview Drive, Orland Park. 708-349-4309

Many of us were at the Gamaufs home for a similar party a few years ago and know what gracious hosts they are. Sincere thanks to them for welcoming us into their home once again.

As usual the main dish and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. NIHS has some great cooks, so you can count on enjoying a memorable holiday feast.

**R.S.V.P:** Please call Rosalie or Frank at 708-349-4309 to let them know you plan to come, and to tell them which dish you will bring.

*Continued on page 3*

## President's Letter *continued*

leaves contributed by our members. Vendor sales (by NIHS members Tom Micheletti and Jim Morrow) were brisk, and other members who were present to answer questions noted much interest in mini-hostas.

For his farewell year as recruiter and overseer for our summer hosta walks, Pete Postlewaite scheduled three excellent events spread throughout our area. Most of you know that Pete has been doing this since NIHS was created 20 years ago. It's understandable that he should want to step back, but we should not let him go without a figurative round of applause for a job superbly done.

I can't say enough about Andy Campbell, who organized this year's Bus Trip to the Peoria area. No matter what Andy is asked—or volunteers—to do, we can count on him to be organized, thorough and thoughtful. I know he worked very hard to make it a huge success.

Our auction fundraiser in August was disappointing in that hardly any members came. The few who did, however, bought enough to make it a profitable afternoon with income of \$1800. In addition to plants members contributed, a significant portion of our profit came from 15 - 20 hostas donated by Jeff Miller of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm in Wisconsin. As usual, Tom Micheletti was our energetic and persuasive auctioneer.

Kristine James has seamlessly taken over Membership Chair duties from Pete Postlewaite this year. While she works in the background much of the time, what she does affects us all. She maintains our membership/ mailing list so that all of us get newsletters like this one as well as reminder notices of events like hosta walks, potlucks, and the other events mentioned above.

Each year the Society has three potluck dinners. Vicki and Allen Eaton were terrific hosts at our March event. And I want to thank Lorel and Gary Abrel for having us as their guests for the September 9 Annual Meeting. June Vandervest, NIHS Hospitality Chair, was a helpful, hard-working presence at both events, assuring that everything went smoothly.

Without doubt there are many other members deserving of thanks for their contributions: Garden walk hosts, members who helped at the Leaf Display at CBG, those who lent a hand at our social events, others who are helping with the convention, and more. Even if you haven't been thanked by name, I want you to know how much the Society values your help and support.

I leave you with a request for your good thoughts and prayers for two long-term members who are fighting serious illness: Lou Horton and Allen Eaton. Lou is making good progress. I have not contacted the Eatons yet because their daughter was scheduled to be married in their home in late October. But I will, soon.

The Holiday Gathering is coming up on December 2 at the home of Rosalie and Frank Gamauf in Orland Park (details inside). I look forward to seeing you there and personally wishing you the best of the holiday season.

*Barbara*

## 2013 CONVENTION REPORT

by Barbara King

It's full steam ahead for the Convention Committee, and good progress is being made. More details will be available in the next newsletter, but here is the general status of "Hostamania" as of November 1:

### Thursday, July 11:

Registration all day

Eleven vendors will set up, and sales will begin in the afternoon.

The possibility of a Thursday evening Barbecue Dinner is being investigated.

Late Evening: Hospitality Suite in the hotel

### Friday, July 12:

Registration & Vendors open all day

Morning: A free escorted tour of the famous Ball Seed Display Gardens in West Chicago, followed by a visit to Cantigny Garden in Winfield.

Morning: Set-up and judges clinic for leaf show.

Afternoon: Judging and exhibit of leaf show

Afternoon: Two seminars are being planned.

Evening: Cocktail hour and dinner at hotel, followed by auction

Late Evening: Hospitality Suite in hotel

### Saturday, July 13:

Registration & Vendors open all day

All Day: Ten gardens will be on the self-guided garden tour: Asselborn, Childress, Fulkerson, Hood, Horton, King, Micheletti, Postlewaite, Rogers, and Van Ostrand,

Evening: Cocktail hour and dinner at hotel, followed by a speaker

Late Evening: Hospitality Suite in hotel

Other information:

Two convention hostas have been chosen: Emerald Charger and Jabulani, both of which may be seen on-line in the Hosta Library. Choices will be made at registration on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The convention hotel, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton, is offering a \$96/night rate to convention attendees, including breakfast and parking, plus a discount coupon at Allgauer's Restaurant in the hotel.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY  
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

### PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

The present Board has never filled the Publicity Director position called for in the NIHS by-laws. As you can see from the minutes of the August 25 board meeting, several initiatives the Society is undertaking are going to require help with “getting the word out.” The person for the job is someone who understands hostaholicism, enjoys working with other people, has good communication skills, and is eager to be part of the team working to guide NIHS. Particular areas to be addressed are activities focused on recruitment of new members, and publicizing NIHS events that are open to the public.

### BY-LAWS REVISION

If you’re a detail-oriented person, you’re the one we’re looking for. It’s true that revising by-laws sounds about as appealing as eating sawdust, but ours definitely need updating. We would like to have this job done in time to seek approval from the membership at our annual meeting next September.

### HOST, HOST, HOST A MEETING

Check out the preliminary schedule of NIHS activities for 2013 in this newsletter. You will find three opportunities to volunteer for the coveted position of **NIHS host**: The Potluck and Garden Tool/Accessory Swap in March; the Annual Meeting, Potluck and Plant Swap in September; and the Holiday Gathering in December. Sunday afternoons are preferred for these events, but the host gets to pick which one. NIHS will give \$75 toward the main course and beverages, and we will provide the paper goods, cups, etc. Usually 30 – 40 people come, and they bring the rest of the food.

### HOSTALITY WALK-ABOUT GARDEN HOSTS

Mark Rekoske is looking for gardeners willing to open their gardens in 2013 or subsequent years. If you are willing to host a Hostality walk or if you know of a garden we should visit, please contact Mark ASAP.

### CONVENTION STAFF

A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available for the 2013 MRHS Convention next July 11 – 13. Besides the satisfaction of helping out, your reward will be a very stylish, very **free** convention T-shirt with the artful depiction of a balding “Hostamania” on the back. How can you resist such an enticement? Sign up before it’s too late! Call Barbara for details.

### Winter Scientific Meeting by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. Speakers scheduled for 2013 include:

**Olga Petryszyn, Rob Mortko, Jeff Miller, Bob Solberg, Glenn Herold, & Mark Zilis.** Topics for each speaker's presentation will be announced on the Midwest Regional Hosta Society website as they are finalized.

The program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions. Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a portion of the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$55 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$65 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail with the registration form to: Kristine James 523 E. Calhoun Street, Woodstock Ill. 60098

**Registrations postmarked after January 7 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.**

Obtain the registration form from the Fall 2012 MRHS newsletter, page 33. Questions? Contact Lou Horton @ lerton85@ameritech.net

### Holiday Party continued

**Also Bring:** A non-perishable food item or a new toy that we will donate to charity & folding chairs, which likely will be needed at the party.

**DIRECTIONS :** From the North: Take I-294 south to I-55 toward Chicago. Exit at LaGrange Road (US 45 South) and proceed to 151<sup>st</sup> Street. Go east on 151<sup>st</sup> St. about 2 miles to Meadow Lane; turn north and go 0.2 miles to Forestview Drive. Turn right and go to 7880, a red bi-level on the corner.

From the South: Take I-80 to Harlem Avenue and go north to 151<sup>st</sup> Street; proceed west to Meadow Lane, the first street on the right, and turn north; go 0.2 miles to Forestview Drive. Turn right and proceed to 7880, a red bi-level on the corner.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Mini Hostas in the Landscape

Oh what to do with those darling little hostas, some only two or three inches tall. Now, we know neither we nor our guests are inclined to bend in half to admire their variations and variegations? Of course, we might. We care so passionately. But who else will be so immoderate? Not many of a certain age, I think, unless they're really trying to humor our enthusiasms; and even then, it could be dangerous.

And not just mini hostas, but their fascinating little companions as well: some ferns (e.g., Wallrue, *Asplenium rutamuraria* and Maidenhair Spleenwort, *Asplenium trichomanes*); mosses (such as *Sagina subulata Aurea* and *Selaginella kraussiana*); miniature *Epimediums* (e.g., *E. g.v. loense*, Saturn and *E. diphyllum Variegatum*); little *Heuchera* (like *Heuchera x Chiquita*); tiny ornamental gingers; *Knawel Cushion*, *Scleranthus uniflorus*; *Pussytoes*, *Antennaria dioica*; *Cyclamencoum Something Magic*. Perhaps *Cotoneaster apiculata*, Tom Thumb. And even some of those irresistible little conifers that can take part sun (certain cultivars of *Chamaecyparis*, *Thuja*, and *Buxus* for example). Our own Lee Gardens as well as Miniature Plant Kingdom and Asiatica Nursery (which you can find online) are good sources for such plants.



I've seen compelling mini-plant gardens at ground level that are populated with enough little hostas and other tiny plants to make stooping over worth the risk (above).

However, why not raise them from the garden bed and put them closer to the eye? You can create a tall berm for the display, or use a birdbath (given drainage), or a hypertufa container on a pedestal. When you're done (no garden is ever done, but think how easy it will be to clean up the leaves come Fall), you have a wonderful little world all to itself, the ability to maintain soil conditions that suit the small roots, and something even the eldest and stiffest of spines and the most unreliable of knees can tilt to adore. often and at length. Enjoy!

Reprinted from *Prairie Hosta Herald*, Aug 2008, Illinois Prairie Hosta Society



### Digital Hosta Happenings!

Currently your Hosta Happenings comes in 2 versions—a black & white 8 page version delivered by USPS and an expanded full color digital email version. The newsletter you are reading today is the full color digital edition with 4 additional pages of pictures & articles covering recent NIHS events. Congratulations on subscribing to the economical, environmentally-friendly, & most inclusive coverage of NIHS' hosta happenings.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## New Member Welcome to

- Donna & Bob Arendt, Carpentersville
- Cinda Berry & Art Krumery, Chicago
- Joan & Jim Blanford, Aurora
- Jill & Frank Fishella, Willowbrook
- Colleen Gaudins, Prospect Heights
- Howard & Sandy McCarthy, Marengo
- Ron & Sally Weber, Elgin



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](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com)

Call Kristine@ 815-337-4621.

Visit our website @

[www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org).

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

## AUCTION 2012: Bargains for Bidders!

By Jim King

The NIHS auction was held August 12 at the Hinsdale Community Center. When I arrived at the parking lot I was surprised to see vehicles in numbers falling quite short of previous years. When I carted our hostas in, however, I saw that the number of donations approximated previous years'. Taking a quick look, I saw some huge specimens, a lot of streakers, including some large *Gunther's Prize* – a variety not frequently available at the auctions.

Barbara King opened the session thanking the members who helped with setup and with refreshments. She explained that two days earlier she had picked up a dozen hostas donated by Jeff Miller (Land of the Giants Nursery in Milton, WI), plus a hosta so exclusive it is offered on condition that it not be reproduced commercially. The opening bid for *Love in the Afternoon* (out of *Love Pat*, a slow grower) would be set at \$100. She expressed thanks to Jeff and to all the members who generously donated hostas for this HIHS fund raising event.

We soon realized that there were fewer than two dozen bidders and what looked like between 150 and 200 lots. Given that many of the bidders were donors who had brought *extra* hostas of theirs, I wondered how we could sell everything.

Well, Tom Micheletti, our outstanding auctioneer, pulled it off, aided by some very low prices – including *Love in the Afternoon* to Dan Adams for the opening bid. It was a bidder's paradise with fantastic bargains. I found myself repeatedly shaking my head in amazement, wishing we had some space for those terrific hostas. At the end I went around congratulating persons who had made out extremely well, including some folks I had not seen before.

Was the yield to the Society disappointing? Not as good as last year but definitely not disappointing. On the way home I did the numbers in my head. The MRHS 2012 auction netted around \$12,000 in July, but there were over 200 bid numbers issued; we came in at over \$1,800 with only 19 active bid numbers. By averages we looked even better than the MRHS record-setting numbers!

Why the low turnout? Perhaps there were fewer donors because the drought had damaged hostas. Likewise, potential buyers could have imagined that the hostas offered would be smaller or less attractive than in ordinary years. Or maybe it was just some folks were kind of tired. But for us bidders it was a marvelous day – though we could get tired out carting our hauls of fabulous bargains back to our cars, vans & trucks!

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS



## Excerpts of Minutes of 8/25 NIHS Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Barbara King at 9:09am. Others in attendance were Ron Asselborn, Andy Campbell, Penny Fulkerson, Dennis Hood, Kristine James, Pete Postlewaite, Mark Rekoske and June Vandervest.

Minutes from the 6-18-2012 were approved with one minor change.

**Treasurer's report** - Presented by Dennis. We have a total of \$15,759.46. The report was approved.

**Annual meeting** – Dennis to prepare treasurer's report for that meeting. A budget should also be presented. We will ask for suggestions regarding membership and other ideas.

**By-Laws** - Barbara would like to rewrite the by-laws of the club. An updated and streamlined version would be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting next year.

**Auction** – Number of people attending was disappointing but those who came bought a lot. Total proceeds were just over \$1,800.00. To assist with turnout at this and other events, the club has a need for a publicity director. June will find out a way to broadcast the event to Garden Clubs of Illinois. Kristine suggested putting info in the Tribune. We will try to advertise at the Leaf Show and at the Hinsdale Center. We could make up posters to advertise both the auction and other NIHS activities.

**MRHS Convention 2013** - Barbara has communicated with Cindy Tomashek, chairperson of the 2012 MRHS Convention. There were 200 attendees. They had a gross profit of \$6,700.00. For our 2013 convention, we have an excellent facility, the Lisle Hilton. In Rochester there were 5 vendors; we have close to 10. They still used buses for the tour of 5 gardens. We have 10 for the self-guided tour. Car pooling among attendees will be strongly suggested. Volunteers are still needed for publicity, hospitality and selling t-shirts. A barbeque is a possibility for Thursday evening. For educational seminars, a tour of Ball Seed Gardens, trips to Planter's Palette or Cantigny were suggested.

**Bus tour 2013** – Mark said there is a possibility of piggy-backing with Great Lakes Hosta Society on Sat. 6-29 to visit northwest Indiana.

**Newsletter** – Of our 184 members, 145 have email addresses. So far 80 are receiving the on-line version for the newsletter. We discussed 2 options for transmission of the email version. The first would include a link to a PDF file that is hosted on a free PDF hosting website. The second would include an html link to our NIHS website. After discussion regarding ease of use

## Letter to Your Editor

Dear Editor,

Could someone comment on how and when hosta seeds are harvested? How do you tell when the hosta seed pod is ready to pick? I have some nice chubby seed pods from H. Plantaginea and H. Razor's Edge that I would like to donate to the seed auction, but don't know how to care for them.

Thanks,

June Vandervest

Our hosta seed expert, Tom Micheletti, past president of the American Hosta Society & owner of The Hosta Patch, responds:

Hosta seeds need 6 to 8 weeks to ripen after pollination. Since hostas flower at different times throughout the growing season, they are usually harvested in the fall. Ripe hosta seeds are black or dark brown and are similar to a maple tree seed with a wing and a thickened kernel on one end. Seeds that are whitish color or only have the papery wing and do not have the thickened kernel will not grow, so should be discarded. When the flower scape begins to turn a golden or tannish color, the seed pods can be harvested. The pods may begin to split open revealing the seeds. Harvest the pods before the pods open and seeds spill out on the ground. They can be sown immediately or stored in a dry container or a paper bag. They do not need any special treatment such as chilling to germinate, and will germinate within 2 to 3 weeks after sowing."

and safety, Dennis moved that we accept Option 2 & the board passed. Through the website only club members will have access to the newsletter.

**Membership** – Kristine is working to attract new members, Some ideas:

“Jazzing up” the web site.

Working with MRHS for an awareness campaign.

Work with park districts, nurseries, etc.

Redesign membership brochure.

Monthly on-line meetings or chat sessions.

Booths at county fairs.

Workshops advertised to the public. END

***RICH'S FOXWILLOW PINES NURSERY, INC.***



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the Chicago Flower &  
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March 1 - November 14: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday

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

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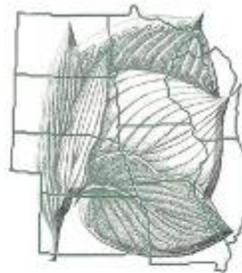
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promote education,  
research, development  
and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the  
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the newsletter. This  
publication reports on  
events and  
information on Hostas  
in general.

Please mail a check  
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MRHS to:

Kristine James  
523 E Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

along with Name,  
Address, phone, and  
email (Most  
correspondence is by  
email). For questions  
email [MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com](mailto:MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com).

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY  
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



Connie & Dennis Hood opened their gorgeous garden for a Hostality Walk-About on July 29.

Despite the drought visitors were amazed at the size and vibrancy of the hostas & supporting plants. We speculated that the nu-



merous water features helped the hosta thrive. Connie revealed thriving was really due to her exhaustive watering and trimming efforts. Granddaughter Devin & Dennis just agreed.





### Falling Leaves

Reprinted from The Newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society  
Nov 2012 newsletter

## AHS Membership Information

Have you visited the new

**American Hosta Society Web Site?**

Go to: [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org) Here you will find information about the AHS as well as links to other hosta societies, information about buying hostas, hosta show updates and much, much more. Check it out!!

Membership is \$30.00 per year for an individual and \$34.00 for a family. Send your membership information to:  
Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary  
PO Box 7539, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948  
or join on-line at: [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)



Rainforest Sunrise 2013 Hosta of the Year



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS



## AHS 2012 NATIONAL CON- VENTION

By Julie Johnston

The 2012 convention has come and gone so we now look forward to 2013 in Milwaukee. This year the convention was in Nashville, Tennessee with famous southern hospitality, or hostatality if you prefer, taking center stage.

As usual, the gardens were the highlight of the convention with lessons in growing hostas in a southern climate. Did you know that in many southern gardens hostas are grown in containers? Their soil isn't conducive in many places to growing hostas in the ground, so pots of all kinds abound. I was, and still am, VERY envious of the HUGE Chinquapin Oak trees that dominated nearly every garden, and I do mean **HUGE!** Those trees were at the very least 80 feet tall, lending gorgeous shade to the hosta beds.



**Angel in the Holland garden**

Since Nashville is famous for its music, the theme was "**Hostas, Friends and Music**". Each table at the banquet had for the centerpiece a hosta with a musical name such as 'Blue

Suede Shoes', 'Moon River' or 'Tennessee Waltz'. I had no idea there were so many hostas with musical names. The convention gift hosta was 'Delona's Smile'. The space for vendors was quite large, allowing for many people to be there at the same time making their purchases. I was a bit disappointed in the number of actual hosta vendors, but the ones present had a fairly good selection.

Every convention has its scientific sessions on hostas which are always informative and usually interesting. This year was no exception. In addition, there were two non-scientific sessions, "The Rise of the Southern Biscuit" and "Adelicia Acklen, Mistress of Belmont". I attended the biscuit talk as food, you know, is always interesting to me. I learned the history behind the famous southern tradition of ham and biscuits and even got to taste the speaker's biscuits. Of course, this had nothing to do with hostas, but sometimes a break from hosta talk is refreshing.



**Pots of hostas combine with hostas, perennials, and annuals in one of the Priester gardens.**

Photos courtesy of Julie Johnston

The convention food was good, but I was expecting regional favorites, say, maybe Nashville's famous barbecued ribs. Not so! I believe one meal was salmon and the other, chicken. This was disappointing, but tasty nonetheless. I just think regional favorites should take center stage at a convention that is held at various locations around the country. Who wants chicken in Maine when you can have crab cakes, or roast beef in Oregon when there is fresh salmon to be savored?

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

The gardens were quite diverse and, as usual, some were stars that shone very brightly and others were less brilliant. It is always a treat to see other hosta gardens and how they are arranged. My very favorite was a rather small garden, but did it ever pack a punch! The hosts were very humble and gracious about the results of their hard work. The husband, Richard, quipped, *"She is the artist. I just do what I am told"*. However, that wasn't the whole truth as in visiting with him I discovered that he has quite a bit of an artistic sense of his own.

The name of their compact garden is "Third Day-Genesis 1:11-13". This garden was also shaded by the huge oak trees along a creek on the back side of the property as well as some smaller trees in the beds. The use of color was spectacular in this garden with an interesting mix of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs in addition to the 300+ hosta. Of course, there were plants I admired which will not grow here in Iowa. Well, they might grow, but won't survive our winter, making them not worth the effort.



**Treble clef and drum in the Priester garden**

Photos courtesy of Julie Johnston

This natural, serene environment won most of the awards given to the gardens on the tour. There was a stacked Koi pond, meaning it was an above ground pool, surrounded by beds of colorful companion plants and hosta; meandering flagstone paths; native boulders and stones as well as garden art, including a treble clef and a drum.



**Front garden at the home of convention co-chair,  
Cornelia Holland.**

As conventions go, I will probably always compare each one attended to the first one I went to in Minneapolis. Either it was an excellent convention setting a standard by which I now judge all others, or it was truly a wonderful experience. Overall, I think the northern gardens are better (I hope none of my southern friends read this) because we grow bigger and more spectacular hostas, which, after all, are the reason for a convention.

The American Hosta Society Convention is an opportunity to once again see friends made at previous conventions, make new friends and keep up on the latest in the hosta world. If you haven't attended a convention, I would suggest you plan to attend next year from June 13-15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It promises to be a very different kind of convention, but could usher in a new way of thinking about how a hosta convention should be. Of course, the 2014 convention in Cedar Rapids is the one NOT to be missed by Iowa hosta lovers, and will be hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society, with genuine Midwest hospitality welcoming one and all.

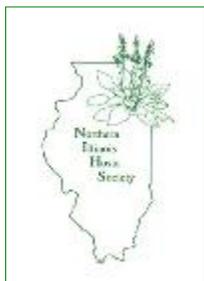
See you at the next convention!

Reprinted with permission from the Hosta Horizons newsletter of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society, October 2012  
Many thanks to Julie Johnston

NIHS Membership Secretary

523 E. Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

Hood  
Garden  
“Land  
of the  
Giants”



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.



We're on the web !

[www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org)

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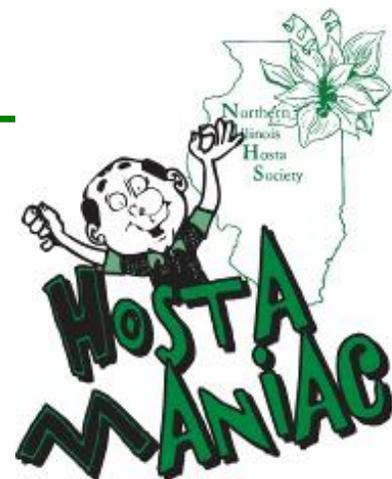
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To view a Power Point presentation on the 2013 MRHS Convention to be held in Lisle, IL please click on the following link: <http://midwest8.apollohosting.com/midwesthostasociety.org/Convention2013/index.html#/28>