

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 81

MAY 2013

## 2013 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- June 1-2 Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, 10-4pm, Chicago Botanic Garden
- June 13-15 American Hosta Society Convention, Milwaukee, WI
- June 23 Hostality Walk-About Garden Visit, 2-5pm, Naperville
- June 29 Bus Tour, 7am-7pm, NW Indiana includes 6 gardens & shopping
- July 11-13, 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention hosted by NIHS, Lisle, IL
- July 28 Hostality Walk-About Garden Visit, 2-5pm, Oakbrook
- August 11, Plant Auction—Open to Public, 1-4pm, Hinsdale Community House
- September Potluck & Plant Swap & Annual Meeting, TBA—Host Needed
- December Holiday Party, Dec 8 at the Fulkerson's in Kildeer



## President's Letter

Spring finally seems to be here, which means that we are all very busy getting our gardens ready for the even warmer months ahead—if it stops raining long enough to perform the necessary tasks! At the same time, NIHS activity has picked up dramatically since the Winter Scientific Meeting in January.

Sincere thanks to Ellen and John Van Ostrand for so graciously hosting our March Pot Luck and Accessory Swap on St. Patrick's Day. The 40 or so members attending seemed to have a great time. NIHS cooks did their usual great job of preparing tasty dishes for all to enjoy; Karen Johanson and Joanna Znorowski provided Ellen with capable help assembling everything. Several members were attend-



ing their first NIHS meeting, and we hope to see them again at future events.

On April 21 at Friendship Park Conservatory in Mount Prospect, Heather Sherwood, Senior Horticulturalist at Chicago Botanic Garden, presented a "live" demonstration of how to build tufa containers for hostas and other favorite plants.

*Continued on page 2*

## Experience the Hosta Leaf Display & Seminar

June 1 & 2, 10 till 4, Chicago Botanic Garden

NEW - INFORMAL WORKSHOP BOTH DAYS AT 1:30 PM

"Everything You Need to Know About Hostas in 45 Minutes"

A brief overview by experts Tom Micheletti and Lou Horton with time for questions.

See complete details on page 5

## President's Letter *continued*

She noted that CBG uses them in several of its display gardens. They are easy to make, inexpensive, and can be decorated. Members also picked up the hostas they had ordered earlier. Lou Horton deserves great credit for selecting the plants to be offered, receiving the orders and checks, collecting the plants from the supplier—Q & Z Nursery in Rochelle—and bringing them to the meeting to distribute. That's a lot of work, Lou, and we're grateful to you for your effort. Thanks also to Mark Rekoske for planning a program in which members showed much interest and enjoyment.

The NIHS Board of Directors made several important decisions at its meeting on April 27. Among them:

- As you read elsewhere in this *Hosta Happenings*, NIHS is finally taking a big step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by agreeing to the online delivery of our newsletter to everyone for whom we have an e-mail address, beginning with this issue. We will soon begin to charge the 15 percent of our membership who prefer to have us mail them the 8-page black and white printed version; printing and postage have become quite costly. I'm hopeful that they will decide to join us in receiving the much longer, more informative online version in beautiful color. Kudos to Editor Ron Asselborn for transforming our newsletter into the attractive, appealing voice of NIHS.

- We approved the draft of an updated membership brochure to be color-printed on quality paper. It is now in the final stages of preparation for the printer. Our hope is that it will be available in time for the NIHS Leaf Display at the Chicago Botanic Garden on June 1 – 2, where we always receive quite a few membership inquiries from visitors.

- Has anyone in the society experienced hosta damage from nematodes at one time or another? The answer is probably an angry "Yes!" That's the reason the board agreed to support the American Hosta Society in its joint research project with Ohio State University to determine how to reduce

the impact of these pests in our hosta gardens. The total cost of the nematode research project is \$100,000. Both OSU and AHS have committed to provide \$50,000 each. NIHS has agreed to donate \$1,000; other local societies throughout the country are also contributing through AHS.

Convention plans are moving ahead nicely, which is good because we have only two more months to complete preparations. Quite a few people have now signed up to volunteer, for which we are most grateful, but we still need more. If you can help with either convention or regular NIHS activities, please check the "Help Wanted" section below and contact me. If you have specific questions about the convention, you will find complete up-to-date information on the website: [www.mrhs2013.org](http://www.mrhs2013.org). Any changes will be posted there immediately.

Believe it or not, we have three more NIHS events on the schedule before the convention, all in June. Be sure to check this newsletter for details on the Hosta Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Garden June 1 & 2, the Hosta Walk at Bea McGovern's garden on June 23, and the NIHS Bus Trip to Northern Indiana on June 29. Hope to see you at one or more of them.

Barbara



### AHS Membership Information

**Have you visited the new**

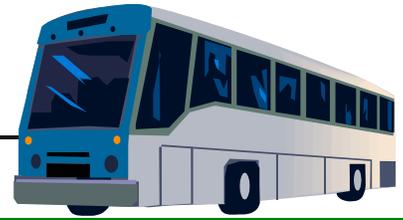
**American Hosta Society Web Site?**

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)



## Speakers to Star at the July 11-13 MRHS Convention

**MIKE NOWAK** (Saturday Banquet Speaker) is host of the aptly named "The Mike Nowak Show," Sundays at 9 on Chicago's Progressive Talk, WCPT 820AM and 92.5, 92.7 and 99.9 FM. For a decade before coming to WCPT, he was the host of WGN Radio's "Let's Talk Gardening" and has appeared on several local and network television programs. He is also a writer and award-winning columnist for Chicago-land Gardening Magazine. Mike is part of the Speakers Network for SafeLawns.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting natural lawn care and grounds maintenance. In another environment, Mike is a 33-year veteran of the Chicago stage, having received awards for acting, directing and writing.

**MARY ANN METZ** (Seminar: Landscaping with Hosta & Other Shady Characters.) has worked in horticulture for 30 years. She was the greenhouse manager and grower at Klehm Nursery in Champaign, IL & she co-owned a small garden center. Mary Ann has recently established her own landscape design and consulting business. Additional experience includes teaching at Parkland College, conducting seminars at garden centers and plant societies throughout the Midwest. Mary Ann is a Master Judge & VP for the American Hosta Society. She is also Vice President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.

**TOM MICHELETTI** (Seminar: The Problem with Hostas) is a retired teacher. He says, "Having summers off, I became involved with hostas. When I was given the green hosta, the one with the white edge and the one with the white center, I had them all! When I received some mail order catalogs I realized I didn't have them all..." Tom began selling plants at a garage sale & transitioned to selling hostas mail order through The Hosta Patch." Tom founded the Northern Illinois Hosta Society in 1992 and was its first president. He is immediate past president of the American Hosta Society, president of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society for 6 years and organized the Winter Scientific Meeting for 16 years.

**NIHS BUS TOUR 2013  
NW INDIANA GARDENS,  
Saturday June 29  
*Seats Are Available*  
Call Mark Rekoske  
(847) 634-1928**

## Newsletter Delivery Changes

Beginning with this issue of Hosta Happenings, all NIHS members for whom we have e-mail addresses will receive newsletters online. Members who have not provided an e-mail address will continue to receive an 8-page black-and-white printed version via USPS, but at the time of their next membership renewal they will be subject to an additional charge to cover printing and postage for the black-and-white issues over the two-year period. The NIHS Board of Directors, at its meeting on April 27, 2013, endorsed this policy change.

This online issue is 19 pages that includes a variety of articles and photos in beautiful color. Like all the online issues, it can be sent to you at no cost to us or to you. Ever-rising newsletter costs for postage and printing amount to nearly \$1,000 dollars per year. On occasion we also send notices to all members, some required by our by-laws. These are already sent electronically but must be printed and mailed to those for whom we have no electronic address. We have therefore elected to accept the economic advantages of using available technology whenever possible even though, regrettably, some members will be asked to pay more.

It is not too late to provide your e-mail address if you haven't already done so. Just send it to Membership Chair Kristine James at [dankrisj@mc.net](mailto:dankrisj@mc.net). **WE GUARANTEE THAT NIHS WILL NOT SHARE MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES WITH ANYONE AND WILL USE THEM ONLY FOR THE DELIVERY OF NIHS NEWSLETTERS, REMINDERS, OR OTHER OFFICIAL NIHS BUSINESS.**

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY  
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

### CONVENTION STAFF

With the convention only two months away, we need volunteers to help with social events, especially the **Hospitality Suite** that will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings after other convention events close down. We have a lovely suite at the Hilton, and lots of attendees will stop by to visit with each other at the end of the day. NIHS provides non-alcoholic beverages (people may bring other beverages on their own if they wish) and snacks. We need someone to set them out each night, replenish supplies during the evening as necessary, and put everything away at the end of the evening. In the meantime, have fun visiting with old and new friends. Maybe you know someone you would like to work together with to create a congenial environment in which convention attendees can relax at the end of the day. If you can help, contact Barbara King at 630-879-2263 or [bhk430@mindspring.com](mailto:bhk430@mindspring.com).

We also need volunteers to help gather items for the **Welcome Packs** given to all convention attendees when they register. Usually included are such things as area information, restaurants, gift items and more. Once everything has been collected, have a party while stuffing everything into plastic bags!

### PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

The present Board has never filled the Publicity Director position called for in the NIHS by-laws. As you recall 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 **HOSTALITY WALK-ABOUT GARDEN HOSTS**

Mark Rekoske is looking for gardeners willing to open their gardens in 2014 and subsequent years. If you are willing to host a Hostality walk or if you know of a garden we should visit, please contact Mark .

## New Member Welcome to

Kathleen Adamec, Hinsdale

Charlene Black Darien

Jo-Ann and Tom Hartfield, Harvard

Joan Mruk, West Chicago

Betty Pozzi, Burr Ridge

Jim Solotke, Deerfield



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.

## Hosta Leaf Show Needs Your Hosta Leaves!

Our annual display at Chicago Botanic Garden demonstrates to Garden visitors, who are not necessarily the hostaphiles that we are, the variety and beauty to be found in our favorite plants. To do that, we prepare a display of single leaves of as many different hosta varieties as we can gather.

To make this show successful NIHS needs some of your hosta leaves. We have more than 180 members. If even half of us contribute only 3 different leaves apiece, we could display 250 – 300 leaves. More would be welcome. Last year all leaves donated were put on display even if they were duplicates.

If you haven't done this before, here's how to do it.

**PREPARATION:** Pick out your best-looking hostas, as many as you can. The night before or the morning of the show, cut off the most nearly perfect leaf on each hosta to be included—do it low on the petiole so it will reach water when it's placed in a vase. Be sure to mark the name of each one, either with some kind of waterproof label or by writing on the lowest part of the petiole with something like a fine-point Sharpie permanent marker that will not come off in water. Put them in cool water in a fairly large, deep plastic rectangular box with a sealable lid. This is what I did last year, and I took in more than 25 leaves. Worked like a charm.

**TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY:** Here are your options:

(1) Take the leaves to the Chicago Botanic Garden Saturday morning, June 1, between 8:30 and 10:00 am and deliver them to the site of the display, Burnstein Hall in the Regenstein Building. When you arrive at the gate, whether or not you are a CBG member, just tell them that you are part of the NIHS event and they will tell you how to get to the drop-off point. Put your flashers on when you leave the car, and take the leaves inside. If you stay, you will need to park elsewhere.

(2) If you live too far from the CBG to take the leaves yourself, contact someone you know will be going to help with set-up and arrange to get them to that person in advance. The defaults would be Nancy Bodinet, chair of the event, who lives in Lake Zurich (847-550-0897); or Lou



*Leaf Display & visitor 2012 at Chicago Botanic Garden*

Horton, who has helped coordinate this event for years, who lives in West Chicago (630-293-7735). Both Nancy and Lou will be setting up the show (putting leaves in vases, then positioning the vases on the tables) **Saturday morning from 8:30 – 10:00 am**, after which it will be open to visitors. Or call Barbara King (630-879-2263) who will try to help you out.

### **OTHER FEATURES:**

NIHS member Jim Morrow and Tom Micheletti will be selling a variety of hostas throughout the event. The workshops noted above are new this year. Lou Horton will conduct the one on Saturday, and Tom Micheletti will take over Sunday.



*Leaf display 2012*

**The**

**Hosta**

**Patch**

**Choose from over 600 varieties!**

**Visit our website  
www.hostapatch.com**

**Order online on our secure server, or**

**Come by and pick them up!**

**Appointment is necessary**

**847-540-8051**



Princeton, Illinois  
(815) 659-3282  
Nursery Open  
April 10– Oct 10

*Hostas, Daylilies,  
Perennials, Grasses,  
Trees & Shrubs,  
Annuals, Aquatics,  
Water Features,  
Granite, Pottery,  
Beautiful Display Beds*

**“Not Just a Nursery, It’s an Experience!”**



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

**Hosta Sale and  
Bolivian Arts & Crafts Fundraiser**

**June 8, 2013  
August 24, 2013  
9am–4pm**

All proceeds from hosta sales benefit Heifer International  
and Bolivian arts & craft sales benefit  
Mano a Mano International Partners.

***Hundreds of Hosta varieties always available!***

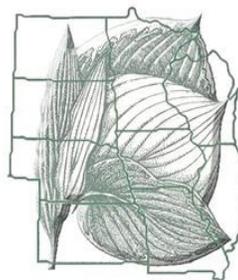
***Lovely shade-tolerant conifers and Japanese maples  
make great companion plants for hostas!***

***Tour the nursery and see unusual Conifers, Ginkgos,  
Japanese Maples, European Beeches and more!***

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

**December 1 - February 28 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday (closed weekends)**

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



**Midwest  
Regional  
Hosta  
Society**

The Midwest Regional  
Hosta Society represents  
Region 5 of the American  
Hosta Society that includes  
9 states. Our mission is to  
promote education,  
research, development  
and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the  
society is \$20.00 for 2  
years, which includes  
two issues per year of  
the newsletter. This  
publication reports on  
events and information  
on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check  
made payable to **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.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Hostality Walk-About Garden Visits

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Bea McGovern's garden in Naperville. Bea has focused on hostas in the garden since the 1970s. She grows a large variety of hostas ranging from the classic to newer varieties incorporated into a diverse collection of perennials in both sun and shade. The hostas range from minis to very large cultivars. For many years, Bea has artfully incorporated fairy-themed garden ornaments throughout the landscape. The garden was a featured tour garden at the 2008 MRHS convention.



**Driving Directions:** The garden is located at 621 Thornwood Drive in Naperville.

From I-355 exit at Maple Avenue West. Go west on Maple Avenue (it becomes Chicago Avenue in Naperville) about 4.5 miles and turn left (south) onto Sleight Street for 0.4 miles. Turn right (west) onto Hillside Road for 0.2 miles and turn left onto Thornwood Drive. 621 is on the right. If you are coming from the west, take Highway 59 and turn east onto Aurora Avenue for 3 miles. Turn right (south) onto Washington Street for 0.3 miles and turn left (east) onto Hillside to Thornwood.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>** at Susan Beard's garden in Oak Brook. The Chicago Tribune Magazine's Spring Garden issue in April included a four page article with pictures of the Beard garden. Susan is accustomed to that kind of attention to her garden. Last year her garden was featured as a Garden Conservancy Open Days event. Susan is an experienced designer who designed her own garden to provide interesting views from every room of the house. Ever changing vistas and constant blooms are highlights of the 3.5 acre garden in a wooded area of Oak Brook. Susan has continuously added to and edited the gardens since the 1970's. Thousands of spring flowering bulbs and flowering trees give way to a multitude of perennials and annuals in the summer months. Hundreds of daylilies and hostas share the stage as garden paths take visitors past the pool, a pond and across a 19 foot bridge.



**Driving Directions:** The garden is located at 3711 Madison St in Oak Brook. From I-294 exit at Ogden Avenue West. Go west on Ogden Avenue 1 mile to Madison Street. Turn right (North) on Madison and proceed about 0.6 mile to 3711 on the right.

Or, from the intersection of Highway 83 and Oak Brook Road (31<sup>st</sup> Street) proceed east on Oak Brook Road 0.5 mile to Spring Road. Turn right (Southeast) on Spring Road and proceed 0.6 mile to Madison Street. Turn right (South) on Madison and proceed 0.3 mile to 3711 on the left.





*Mary Ann Metz , Barbara King, & Barb Schroeder mug for the camera. Mary Ann & Barb dropped in to party on their way home from Hosta College*



*Mark Rekoske performs hosta poetry to the delight of his fans.*

The **NIHS Spring 2013 Pot Luck Dinner & Tool/Accessory Swap** was a big hit for the 40 plus members who enjoyed the homemade delicacies. Ellen & John Van Ostrand graciously hosted the festivities.

*Members discuss the remedies for Virus X, slugs & nematodes in anticipation of the first hosta scapes to burst from their gardens.*



## Spring Hosta Gardening Calendar

As the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to affect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

**Labeling:** Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

**Light:** Full sun, moderate intensity. Usually no shading is necessary.

**Nutrients:** Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

**Pests:** Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

**Protection:** Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. This is your last

chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduced the risk of petiole rot, if

hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with un-furled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

**Spring/Foliage Emergence** begins April -early May (or later this year)

**Propagation:** Hostas may be divided in half or quarters



*H. First Frost is increasing in popularity*

as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system.

New roots will not begin forming until the first set of new leaves are almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic divisions for late summer.

**Water:** Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water; make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly; do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

**Fun!** This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag your neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act.

This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world. Go to a local hosta meeting.

Reprinted from the Central Illinois Hosta Society Newsletter, an excerpt from Hosta Gardening Calendar by Bob Solberg, Green Hill Farm

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**Rejuvenating a Monster Hosta 'Sagae'**

It was time. As the first picture shows—taken just as the leaves unfurled in 2011 (April 22)—our beloved *H. 'Sagae'* was showing its age. It had developed the tell-tale “fairy ring” effect of having little or no new growth in the center of the crown, with an ever-expanding loose circle of eyes around it. As the season progressed, the clump looked a bit misshapen, oval when seen from above and sort of sloping when seen in side view. This winter, with no snow but ever-present moisture, made it look even worse: water actually pooled in the central depression, which seemed like a very good way to encourage some kind of rot. We can't blame our monster for needing some attention. It was already a very large plant in 1998 when we moved it from its Wilmington, Delaware, city garden out to the country. This “*Fluctuans Variegated*” was the very first mail-order hosta we ever purchased, in early 1993, as we began to garden our city lot. (Not coincidentally, that was



the year we discovered *The Hosta Book* by Paul Aden, and, by doing a little sleuthing, happened upon Ali and Warren Pollack's garden.) Our prized 'Sagae' had never, since we planted those first two eyes, been divided. Moved, yes, but never divided, and we intended to keep it that way. But the time came for a needed rejuvenation. Trying to do this at any time when the leaves were up was a no-go: This 'Sagae' is about 7 feet across when leafed out, and has garden neighbors that also would be a challenge to work around. Fortunately, we got a break this year when we went nearly two weeks without rain, letting the ground dry as much as it ever gets in this bed. We could lift the hosta without lifting muck.

The process is simple to describe, and challenging to execute: cut around the hosta to free the crown, gently (if possible) remove dirt from the roots to make lifting and dividing easier, rearrange the eyes (dividing as needed) to reform the crown to the desired size and shape, and replant with fresh compost. All while avoiding all the other emerging hostas nearby! As can be seen in the first in-process photo (left), there was nothing in the center of the old guy

at all (sometimes a hosta will have a woody mass in the center of the fairy ring).

The picture above shows the ring cut around the plant along with the tools of the job: a digging fork (actually under the hosta in the picture), a long “post-hole” shovel used to pry up big masses and a handheld cultivating claw.

*Continued on following page*



Next we show (on the left) the claw in use to free up the roots. This also let us discover a few tree roots that had made their way into the garden. After that it was time to assess the rearrangement of eyes. In this case we ended up breaking the circle at a point that was already weak and then prying the ring open to find a natural break point on the other side. This piece could then nestle against the other part of the crown. This got us close to our goal, although our result was a bit misshapen.



At this point we lifted all sides of the crown and filled under it with a mix of soil and compost. We decided to take a lump off the bottom edge of the ring, and use some of eyes to fill in the center. We then top-dressed with more compost mix, and watered it in well. The result is shown below. Technically we lost a few smaller eyes through unavoidable damage, and a few eyes were left behind in getting it all fit back together.



So has 'Sagae' been "divided?" We won't tell. While it's too early to know if we had a resounding success, our 'Sagae' will still be front & center when we open our garden for First Look.

**Photo Essay by David Teager (with Stephen Fugate);**

Reprinted from the Delaware Valley Hosta Society Newsletter, Spring 2012

## 'RAINFOREST SUNRISE' 2013

### Hosta of the Year

'Rainforest Sunrise' is this year's American Hosta Growers Association Hosta, Hosta of the year. This attractive sport of the all-gold Hosta 'Maui Buttercups' (a hybrid of H. 'August Moon' x H. 'Frances Williams') was released by Jim Anderson of Winterberry Farms in 2003. It has lightly cupped leaves that are heavily puckered or corrugated. The glossy leaves emerge light green, but soon develop golden centers with dark green margins. The centers gradually lighten as the season progresses. It has the best color when planted in an area that receives morning sun.

'Rainforest Sunrise' has a moderate growth rate, forming a clump 10" high and about 2 feet across when mature. The foliage has good substance so it remains fresh-looking all summer and well into fall for a distinctive garden presence, as well as making it rather slug resistant. The textured oval leaves make a good contrast to other smooth-leaved hostas, particularly blue types.

White to light lavender flowers are borne on 18-24" scapes in mid-summer.

*Reprinted from Spring 2013 Green & Gold Hosta News  
Text and photos courtesy of Dr. Susan Mahr, U of Wis*



## What are Nematodes?



Foliar nematodes live in and feed upon the aerial portion of the plant, mostly leaves, and are rarely associated with the soil unless it is within infested plant debris. A common over-wintering site is within the crown of the plant where new leaves will emerge in spring. They commonly spread from plant to plant by splashing water and leaf contact. Nematodes can swim in a thin film of water to move upwards towards leaves where they enter stomata. Another way they spread is by vegetative cuttings of leaves, stems and crowns. Gardeners who are active in propagation are likely to move the pathogen with every division.

Nematodes remain active, feeding on leaf tissue and repeating their life cycle multiple times in the growing season. Once it becomes cooler, they will migrate towards the plant crown, live in dormant buds or leaf debris.

Typical symptoms begin as yellow discoloration in late June, indicating the nematodes were feeding. Later, the affected areas develop into brown streaks bordered by veins. The yellow and brown areas occur only BETWEEN veins and the brown color can be seen on both the front and backside of the leaf.

Eventually, the entire leaf burns brown and dries up; typically, the youngest leaves at the shoot tips are free of infestations, but the older leaves show progressively severe damage.

Reprinted from the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society newsletter

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY  
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



The gorgeous April 21 afternoon brought out hostaphiles to the Sponsor Plant Pickup and Guest Speaker meeting in Des Plaines.

Guest Speaker Heather Sherwood wowed the audience with her high energy demonstration showcasing how to build hypertufa containers for your mini hostas. She mixed and scratched, hammered and drilled and kept up her energetic dialogue. Then, before our eyes, a finished hosta trough! Magical.



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

ACES

College of Agricultural,  
Consumer and  
Environmental Sciences

College NEWS

## New disease in Illinois: Should we grow impatiens?

URBANA -- Many plants are susceptible to downy mildew pathogens, which are usually not considered to be major disease threats. However, downy mildew of impatiens (*Plasmopara obducens*), a new disease to Illinois, is a major problem for all cultivars of *impatiens walleriana*, according to University of Illinois plant clinic diagnostic outreach specialist Stephanie Porter.



"When this disease first became a problem in the U.S., it was seen only in the nursery and had not yet established itself in the landscape," she said. "In 2011, we began receiving reports that it was a problem in landscapes in the Chicago area."

Based on the reports of impatiens downy mildew infection and weather conditions in Illinois the last two years, Porter believes that outbreaks are likely to continue in the Chicago area because many landscapers and gardeners plant impatiens in the same area every year. They often find that if they have an outbreak of downy mildew one year, they will have another the following year.

However, it is more difficult to make predictions about this disease in downstate Illinois. "We do know that we have had conditions favorable for downy mildew infections in Illinois in 2011 and 2012," Porter said.

Plant or finish growers of impatiens may have an increased risk for downy mildew infection if:

- Impatiens production is at the same time that impatiens is growing in the landscape. *This is not likely in Illinois because plant production is during March or April.*
- Impatiens plugs or liners are from an area where infected impatiens are currently growing or where impatiens downy mildew has been reported in the landscape. *This could be a problem if plugs are grown in southern states and shipped here for finishing.*
- Impatiens plants are growing in an area where impatiens downy mildew was confirmed in the landscape in 2011 or 2012. *This could cause problems for the finish grower or end user.*

Porter said that gardeners who find downy mildew should remove all of the diseased plant material to avoid further infection in the garden or in neighbors' gardens. However, it may be difficult to rid the planting area of this disease because the pathogen can remain in the soil.

There are some fungicides available for use against this disease; however, they are mostly

*Continued on Page 15*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Growing Hostas from Bare Roots

We know everyone is excited about their new hostas that will be arriving in a couple of weeks. Perhaps these tips will help the newer hostaphiles!

Plant your bare root hostas as soon as possible. Soak the roots in tepid water for about 30 minutes immediately before planting.

Use a rich soil mix that will drain well. You can form a small cone in your pot or firmly around the roots, but not hard enough to damage the roots. Add water to prevent any air pockets near the roots. When you finish, the hosta crown should be at soil level.

Water slowly but thoroughly. Do not water again until the soil becomes dry. One of the most frequent mistakes people make with bare root plants is overwatering. Remember that some plants will emerge more quickly than others. Don't overwater the slower plants because you may cause them to rot.

If there is threat of frost after planting outdoors, protect new growth with an upside down bucket or pot. Enjoy!

Author unknown, reprinted from a recent society newsletter

### New Disease in Illinois: Should We Grow Impatiens? continued

used in commercial settings for plant protection. Fungicides will not "cure" this disease. Several protectant fungicide applications are required, so they usually are not an economical or a feasible choice for homeowners.

"I have recently been asked the question: 'If I had downy mildew of my impatiens the last two years, should I plant something else?' My answer is 'Yes,'" Porter said.

She added that, if you are selling impatiens, be sure they are from a reputable and reliable grower.

"Growers are responding to the gardeners' requests for alternative shade-tolerant plants, so do not hesitate to ask what else you could offer in lieu of impatiens," advised Richard Hentschel, a U of I Extension horticulture educator.

### Letter to Your Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a hostaholic and love hostas in all their forms. Please provide me an authentic hosta recipe so that I can enjoy my hosta with my dining club friends.

Regards, Bob N.

Dear Bob,

One of our great cooks, June Vandervest, passes along the following recipe for a hosta salad.

#### Urui with Vinegar Mustard Miso Dressing

Ingredients:

Hosta (H. montana or whatever hosta)

White miso (bean paste sugar)

Sake (Japanese rice wine) or mirin (sweet cooking rice wine)

Vinegar (Kenya recommends rice vinegar)

Mustard

1. Prepare Hosta:

A. Cut off fresh leaves of hosta (preferably H. montana) just above the crown. Wash them well, and cook in boiling water with a little salt for 1/2 minute to 1-1/2 minutes. Drain well in a colander. Cut the leaves into 1 to 2 inches.

2. Prepare VMM Dressing:

A. Place white miso and sugar (about 1 : 0.7) in a small sauce pan

B. Add some sake or mirin just enough so it is easy to mix

C. Cook over low heat stirring constantly with a wooden spoon

D. It is done when it turns creamy

E. Cool the miso mixture

F. Add vinegar to thin the miso mixture and mix well with a whisk

G. Prepare mustard if you use dry one; Luke-warm water makes the mustard spicier

H. Add the mustard to your taste to the miso mixture, and mix more with a whisk

3. Serve the cooked hosta with the dressing

PS - June says "Let me know if you make it!"



Josh Spece is well known in Iowa and the Midwest and National hosta communities. He is an accomplished speaker on hostas and water gardening. Josh has written articles for *The Hosta Journal* – winning the AHS Best New Journal Author Award in 2008. He has been instrumental as webmaster for the AHS website for a number of years. Josh and his mom, Sue, own **In the Country Garden and Gifts** near Independence, IA. They and other family members often vend at AHS and MRHS conventions.

In 2012, the Spece family was one of two Iowa finalists of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. When the other family was selected for the show, the community of Independence came together in true small town Iowa fashion to make a new home a reality for the Spece family.

Josh, who recently turned 34, and his younger siblings - Jackie, 32, and Jake, 25 - have a rare form of muscular dystrophy called spinal muscular atrophy. All three use wheelchairs. In a *Des Moines Register* interview, Josh commented, "We don't know anything about how it's supposed to be for everybody. It's just the way it's always been." He has been wheelchair bound since the age of 2.

Fundraising events for **Building a Dream in the Country** began in January 2012. One of the first events was hosted by the winners of the *Extreme Makeover* home in West Union, IA. An open house tour of their home was held in late January 2012 with all proceeds going to the Spece family. 1825 people toured the Gibbs home and over \$17,000 were raised.

Since then, fundraising events have been held throughout Northeast Iowa. Last year all of the proceeds from the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society's summer auction (over \$3000) went to BADITC. After that success, ROHS President, Marlys Anderson, challenged other hosta clubs around the country to contribute to the fundraising efforts, and another \$3000 was raised.

The final two donations of the 2013 First Look Auc-

tion were for the benefit of BADITC. Jeff Miller donated a showy, large yellow hosta, *H. 'Giantland Believe in a Dream'*, and Don Dean donated one of his blues, *H. 'Country Dreaming'*. Each sold for \$500 and First Look organizers matched the bids for a total donation of \$2000. Just the week before, the milestone of \$100,000 had been reached. Before groundbreaking begins, BADITC needs to raise \$150,000 of its goal of \$200,000.

**Building a Dream in the Country** is working with McNamara Custom Carpentry of Urbana, IA, to adapt an All American Home floor plan for wheelchair accessibility. Voice activated Smart Wiring and fixed ceiling lifts will be added features. The new home will be built next to the new location of **In the Country Garden and Gifts** on the farm of Josh's grandmother, JoAnn Johnson.

Kathy Finholt: "Not only will the lift system help immensely, just having their home next to the greenhouse will cut Sue's stress and time spent running back and forth. We plan to have the house set so they can go out the front door, across the drive and into the back door of the greenhouse shop."



Josh Spece &  
his mother,  
Sue Spece.

I will be hosting an online fundraising auction for the Spece Family and BADITC on the Hosta Library website from May 18 – June 1. I am seeking hosta donations in all bidding ranges – from streakers and rarities to new plants on the market and everything in between. Other perennials and garden accessories are also needed. 'Do Not Propagate or Share Without Permission' notices will be included on donations for all who request it. Thanks for your help for this great cause! Please email me ASAP with your donation information.

rohseditor@gmail.com or reinaldo75@hotmail.com  
Thank You! Reldon Ramsey

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS



### Draft of Minutes of 4/13 NIHS Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara King .

Those in attendance were Dan Adams, Ron Asselborn, Andy Campbell, Penny Fulkerson,

Dennis & Connie Hood, Lou Horton, Kristine James and Mark Rekoske.

**Minutes** - A motion was made by Andy to approve the minutes from the previous board meeting 10-27-12. This was seconded by Mark and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - The treasurer's report shows \$17,792.29 on hand including the CD. Barbara advised that the MRHS convention committee chose to keep the registration fee low at \$119.00. At this level, NIHS will lose money; the question of how much will be determined by the number of people attending. The intention is to keep attending more attractive to the people who are considering attending only one convention. The AHS convention is in June only 90 miles from Chicagoland. MRHS has agreed to supplement our costs only if we do not meet the hotel minimums. Ron moved, Penny seconded and the treasurer's report was approved.

**Newsletter** - Ron offered a proposal for a new communication policy for NIHS. Anything "postal" is a hassle. Postage and printing costs are high. Even though we have 140 email addresses, only 76 members are receiving the newsletter electronically. Barbara will write an explanation in the May newsletter assuring members that their emails will be used only for NIHS business. A motion was made by Barbara that the newsletter will be sent electronically effective immediately to anyone for whom we have an email address. Upon renewal of membership those people who cannot receive the electronic version will be charged \$20.00 additional for each 2 year membership. Penny seconded the motion and it was approved.

**Membership** – The discussion of how to handle members being charged the additional \$20.00 was continued. Memberships expire in December but some are paid for several years. It was decided that the increased fee will only be charged at expiration of membership. Also a new membership brochure has been designed by Kristine James. It has been formatted for printing by Lori Solyom, a media professional who is the daughter of NIHS members. She

has helped us with some convention materials as well. A preliminary sample was distributed and several possible changes were discussed. The general format was approved. When we put this brochure at various locations for distribution, Dennis suggested noting the location on the brochure so that we know where placing the brochures is most effective.

**Leaf Display at CBG June 1, 2** – Event is coordinated by Lou and Nancy Bodinet. As a new feature this year each day at 1:30pm there will be a workshop open to the public. One day the workshop will be presented by Lou and on the other by Tom Micheletti. CBG will post signs around the garden advertising the show.

**Annual Meeting** – We need a host home. Also all officers on the board come on and off in the same year so a nominating committee must be formed.

#### Upcoming Events –

Hosta Walk is 6-23 in Naperville.

Bus Trip is 6-29 and a few seats remain.

Heather Sherwood, speaker at our April meeting, refused to take any stipend. Mark moved and Ron seconded that we donate \$100.00 to CBG to show our appreciation.

We have 10 vendors for the convention. For each of the 10 gardens on tour we need to find 2-4 "gatekeepers" to be posted at the gardens.

The auction in 2012, though successful financially, was not well-attended. We are looking for ideas to get the word out on this event. It is a major fundraiser for the club and open to the public.

**Publicity** – Barbara has found 7 community magazines in which to advertise the club. Dan suggested the Southtown Economist. Andy suggested a reciprocal arrangement with garden clubs. If we advertise events for them, they would advertise for us.

**Nematode Research** - This AHS project is seeking \$50,000.00 in contributions to match the \$50,000.00 being contributed by Ohio State University which will conduct the research. After discussion of our anticipated loss on the convention, it was moved and seconded that we donate \$1,000.00 at this time. It was also agreed that the Board may revisit this issue and consider another donation after the convention if it is needed and if our financial situation permits.

The next board meeting is tentatively set for July 27. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY  
**HOSTA HAPPENINGS**



PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH CONVENTION REGISTRANT

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>HOSTA MANIA HEADQUARTERS (HMHQ)</b> | Hilton Lisle/Naperville 3003 Corporate West Drive Lisle IL 60532 630-505-0900 or 800-552-2599<br>Convention rate: \$96 + tax (includes breakfast at Allgauer's Restaurant, on-site), reserve by <b>6/20/2013</b><br>by calling the above numbers or using this direct internet link:<br><a href="http://www.hilton.com/en/hil/groups/personalized/N/NAPHIHF-CMRH-20130711/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG">www.hilton.com/en/hil/groups/personalized/N/NAPHIHF-CMRH-20130711/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG</a> |
|--|--|

**SPECIAL HOSTA MANIA CONVENTION EVENTS**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>SPECIAL TOUR</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! Sign me up for the tour!  | FRIDAY JULY 12 at 8:30 am: The spectacular Gardens of Ball are just minutes from HHMQ. They are not usually open to the public, so RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for this FREE guided tour! More info at <a href="http://www.2013MRHS.org">www.2013MRHS.org</a> . Preview the gardens at <a href="http://www.ballhort.com/ball_ball_gardens.aspx">www.ballhort.com/ball_ball_gardens.aspx</a> |
| <b>JUDGES CLINIC</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! Sign me up for the clinic!  | FRIDAY JULY 12 8:00-11:00 am An up-to-date handbook is required for the Judges Clinic and may be downloaded for free at <a href="http://www.hosta.org">www.hosta.org</a> <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to purchase the handbook (\$10) at the convention  |
| <b>HOSTA SHOW</b><br>(See the show schedule at convention website) | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! I will judge!   |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! I will clerk!   |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! I will enter! Approximate Number _____  | (NOTE: Maximum of 25 entries. Preparation begins Thursday July 11 at 1:00 pm)   |
| <b>AUCTION</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! I will donate!  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants - approximate number _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Non-plant items - approximate number _____  |
| <b>FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> CHICKEN <input type="checkbox"/> PORK <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL NEEDS: _____  |   |
| <b>SATURDAY BANQUET</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> CHICKEN <input type="checkbox"/> BEEF <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL NEEDS: _____  |   |
| <b>ATTENDEE LIST</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES! Please include my name and address on the convention attendee list provided to all attending Hosta Maniacs  |   |
| <b>OTHER AREA GARDENS</b>  | There is a wealth of other public gardens to visit on your own near HHMQ and around the Chicago area. Visit <a href="http://www.2013MRHS.org">www.2013MRHS.org</a> for a list. Don't forget to bring your membership card from your local botanical garden for reciprocal FREE entry to many of them. |   |

Visit our website for schedule and more late-breaking Hosta Mania information: [www.2013MRHS.org](http://www.2013MRHS.org)

**I'M A HOSTA MANIAC - HERE'S MY INFORMATION!**

Name (as you would like it to appear on your convention name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (for convention use only): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: Saturday's Garden Tours will be self-guided. Parking is limited at many homes, so carpooling is recommended whenever possible and provides opportunities to better know other Hosta Maniacs! Hosta Mania Car Pool Central will be available at HHMQ to help form carpools, and you will be provided with explicit maps and precise driving directions.  
 If you know you will need a ride or that you can provide a ride, please let us know in advance!  
 I will need a ride  I will gladly offer a ride and can accommodate \_\_\_\_\_ passengers

Full Registration (postmarked before July 1, 2013): \$119 \_\_\_\_\_

Late Full Registration (postmarked July 1, 2013 or later): \$149 \_\_\_\_\_

Meals only Registration (Friday and Saturday dinners): \$105 \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Handbook: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Total this registration form (please make a copy for your records): \_\_\_\_\_

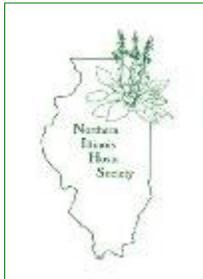
Send registration form(s) and checks payable to "NIHS 2013 Convention" to:  
 Kristine James  
 523 E Calhoun Street  
 Woodstock, IL 60098

REGISTRATION USE ONLY: Check # \_\_\_\_\_  LIST  ALIST  AL-N/A # \_\_\_\_\_

NIHS Membership Secretary

523 E. Calhoun St.

Woodstock, IL 60098



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 Bea's  
Fairies &  
miniatures  
on June 23



## Officers & Directors

### President

Barbara King  
630-879-2263  
bhk430@mindspring.com

### Co-Vice Presidents for Program

John Van Ostrand  
847-438-1056  
jlvano@yahoo.com

Mark Rekoske  
847-634-1928  
mrekoske@comcast.net

### Vice President for Hospitality

June Vandervest  
630-852-2940  
junevandervest@comcast.net

### Recording Secretary

Penny Fulkerson  
847-540-8212  
pennycarl@yahoo.com

### Membership Secretary

Kristine James  
815-337-4621  
NI.hosta@gmail.com

### Co-Treasurers

Dennis & Connie Hood  
847-742-6765  
dlcdhood@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Ron Asselborn  
630-587-1341  
rasselborn@fvi.net

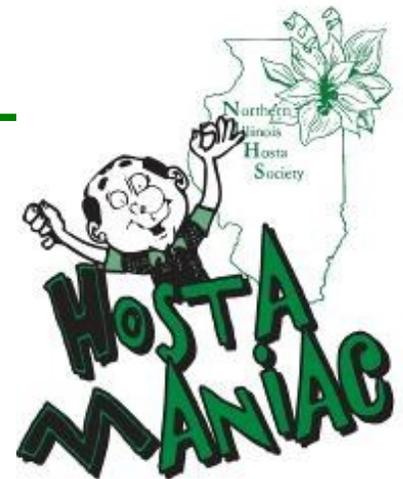
### Ex Officio Board Member

Lou Horton  
630-293-7735  
ehorton85@ameritech.net

### Directors -At-Large

Dan Adams  
773-972-1386  
ghetto2@yahoo.com

Andy Campbell  
847-695-0021  
andycamp@flash.net



See Bea McGovern's garden on June 23