

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 82

JUNE 2013

2013 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **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 8, Potluck & Plant Swap & Annual Meeting, 1-4 pm at Mary Ann Brucher's, Downers Grove**
- **December Holiday Party, Dec 8 at the Fulkerson's in Kildeer**
- **January 2014, Winter Scientific Meeting, Date TBA**



President's Letter

With the MRHS Convention HOSTAMANIA in Lisle approaching so rapidly, it's hard to separate NIHS news from convention news. Please forgive any overlap!

Conventions

The National Convention of the American Hosta Society has just concluded in Milwaukee. Three hundred eighty five people attended, about twice the number we hope to have at HOSTAMANIA in Lisle next month. I counted at least 20 NIHS members among the attendees, and several of them played prominent roles in convention events.

Congratulations to the national co-chairs, our own Tom Micheletti and Milwaukee's Jack Barta, who did a terrific job of organizing the convention and keeping everything moving along. And they seemed always to maintain their good humor!



This was my first national convention; I have been to five MRHS Regional Conventions. How do they differ, aside from the number of attendees? Very little, as far as I can tell, except for the scale. Everything at national is bigger, but the scheduled events are interchangeable with those at a regional convention. Farther along in this newsletter you will find detailed information about what's being offered at next month's *continued on page 2*

Join the Excitement for our Annual Plant Auction

Aug 11, 1 till 4 pm, Hinsdale Community House

The Auction is an opportunity to take home plants that may be difficult to find in the trade and to enjoy new friends & getting together with old friends. The bidding will be lively and exciting! Please plan to attend and to donate hostas and companion plants from your garden. Mark your calendar to dig your donations by July 27 so they will look healthy & perky for the auction.

President's Letter *continued*

HOSTAMANIA, including a complete schedule and registration form. Remember that the **registration deadline is July 1**, so be sure to sign up now for a fabulous experience right in your neighborhood.

Hosta Walks

Everyone enjoys our summer Hosta Walks for NIHS members. This year there are only two because of the Convention, so mark your calendar now. Bea McGovern's garden in Naperville will be open on Sunday, June 23, and Susan Beard's garden in Oakbrook will be on display on Sunday, July 28. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Auction

Another very important upcoming event is the NIHS Plant Auction on Sunday, August 11, at 1:00 pm at Hinsdale Community Center. This year's fundraiser is especially significant because we need to replenish the NIHS treasury since the costly convention will eat into our reserves.

Fortunately this year we have not had the heat and drought that affected the appearance of plants last year. Assuming that we continue on that course, everyone should have some beauties to donate. We rely on our members to supply lots of hostas (and/or other plants) to be auctioned and to bid high and buy lots of hostas (and/or other plants)! This event will be publicized to the public in the hope of attracting additional bidders and buyers. You



The Chicagoland Daylily Society will be holding their Plant Sale on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at the Community House in Hinsdale. Many colors and flower types of both older and newer cultivars reasonably priced. There will be one table devoted to newer cultivars on the market. Hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

can help insure a successful auction by spreading the word to your local garden clubs and other plant societies. Let them know it's open to all, and some great hostas and shade plants will be offered.

Nominating Committee

In anticipation of the annual meeting, a nominating committee is being formed to prepare a slate of officers for the next two years. When the committee is in place, members will be informed and anyone interested in serving as an officer or director is invited to contact the chair. The list of positions and incumbents is at the end of this newsletter, except for the publicity chair which is vacant.

Annual Meeting

Our decision-making meeting for the year is coming up on Sunday, September 8, at 1:00. Mary Ann Brucher has kindly agreed to host it at her home in Downers Grove. This year we will elect officers for the next two years and set the course of NIHS for 2013-14. We will start with a picnic and conclude with an optional plant swap. To participate in the swap, just bring a plant—hosta, companion, perennial, or anything else. Non-invasive please.

As you can see, NIHS is looking at a full agenda. Please join us for all of these events if you can. I especially look forward to seeing you at HOSTAMANIA!

Barbara



AHS Membership Information

Have you visited the new

American Hosta Society Web Site?

Go to: 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

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Hostamania is Almost Here!

Register by July 1

Our Convention Planning Committee has worked very hard to be ready to present an exciting regional convention next month, JULY 11 – 13. Access to all HOSTAMANIA events is available to all NIHS members for the bargain registration fee of \$119. Details are on the schedule that follows. Complete information is at www.mrhs.org, but here are a few highlights.

LOCATION

The Lisle/Naperville Hilton, “Convention Central” for HOSTAMANIA, is a lovely venue with a most helpful and accommodating staff. It is easy to reach just off I-88 at the Naperville Road exit, close to the renowned Morton Arboretum, Cantigny Park, and lots of restaurants and other attractions. Parking is free.

GARDENS

Our garden tour on Saturday, July 13, will feature the fabulous gardens of ten NIHS members. It will be self-guided, as was the tour in Milwaukee. An excellent set of directions with maps will guide you, or you can use your GPS. No rushing for the bus when you would rather linger in a garden you especially like. Leave a garden when you have seen everything you want to see. Stop for lunch whenever you feel like it. Milwaukee attendees’ response to this new approach was almost universally positive. The only “complaint” by a few was that they weren’t able to visit with people as they did on the bus. (That can be remedied by a trip to the comfortable Hostality Suite at the Hilton each evening to relax and visit with old and new friends.)

SPEAKERS

Seminars

Mary Ann Metz, a horticulturalist for 30 years, has also taught community education classes, conducted seminars, and made presentations to garden clubs. A member of NIHS, she is also vice president of MRHS. Her topic: “Landscaping with Hostas and Other Shady Characters.”

Tom Micheletti, founder of NIHS, past president of MRHS and AHS, and organizer of the Winter Scientific Meeting is a retired teacher of industrial arts who devotes much of his time to his mail order business, The Hosta Patch. He is a frequent speaker at plant-related events. His topic is “The Problem With Hostas.”

Featured Banquet Speaker

Mike Nowak may be best known as a Chicago radio personality with a weekly Sunday morning show on WCPT, but he is much more: Master Gardener, environmentalist, writer, stage actor/director, and entertaining speaker at events like ours, where his topic will be “I’m Not Really a Garden Expert, I Just Play One on the Radio.”

VENDORS

Ten excellent vendors from across the country will be at HOSTAMANIA

with all sizes and varieties of hostas from classics to the latest introductions, and from minis to giants. Some will be offering companion plants, trees, garden ornaments and more. Your welcome pack will contain coupons for discounts at nearby nurseries where you can supplement your hosta purchases with other quality plants.

LEAF SHOW AND AUCTION It wouldn’t be an MRHS Convention without a Leaf Show. Your entries are welcome; categories and show rules are at www.mrhs2013.org. The plant auction after dinner Friday is the MRHS annual fundraiser. Last year it took in a record \$12,000. Members, vendors, and propagators always enter some beautiful plants to attract the attention of bidders.

NOTE: Vendors, Leaf Show and Auction are also open to the public.

What we need now is support from our membership.

If you have not “conventioned” in the past, you will find that these gatherings are really enjoyable. Not only do we hope you will register and join us at HOSTAMANIA, we want and need your support because you are the Northern Illinois Hosta Society.



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOSTAMANIA SCHEDULE

<u>Thursday, July 11</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Room</u>
8:30 am – Noon	Vendor setup	Regency
LUNCH	On your own	
Noon – 4:00 pm	Auction plants received	Oak
Noon – 5:00 pm	Registration	Atrium
	Free time to visit nearby attractions	
	Morton Arboretum and Cantigny Park – map and directions in welcome packet	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Hosta Leaf Show entries received	Regency/Pine & Spruce
1:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Vendor sales – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Regency
DINNER	On your own	Restaurant list in welcome packet
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hosta Leaf Show entries received	Regency/Pine & Spruce
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Orientation: How Do Self- Guided Garden Tours Work?	East/West Parlor (Lower Level)
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Parlor 811 (8 th Floor)
<u>Friday, July 12</u>		
	Hotel guests' complimentary breakfast	Allgauer's
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registration	Atrium
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Vendor sales – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Regency
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Hosta Leaf Show entries received	Regency/Pine & Spruce
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Judges Clinic 1	Majestic
8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Auction plants received	Oak
8:30 am – 10:30 am	Optional Tour –Ball Seed Gardens	Off site
10:30 am	More free time to visit nearby nurseries, Cantigny Park and Morton Arboretum	
11:00 am – Noon	Judges luncheon	Majestic
LUNCH	On your own	Restaurant list in welcome packet
Noon – 3:00 pm	Hosta Leaf Show judging	Regency/Pine & Spruce
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Auction plants received	Oak
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Seminar I: Maintaining Your Hostas - Tom Micheletti	Majestic
2:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Auction preview	Oak
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Seminar II: Landscaping with Hosta and Other Shady Characters –Mary Ann Metz	Majestic
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Hosta Leaf Show – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Regency/Pine & Spruce
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	MRHS Board Meeting	Lisle Executive Boardroom
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Silent Auction	Atrium
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktails	Atrium
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner	Majestic
7:15 pm – 9:30 pm	Auction – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Majestic
9:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Hostatality	Parlor 811 (8 th Floor)

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOSTAMANIA SCHEDULE continued**Saturday, July 13**

7:00 am – 4:00 pm	Gardens open (self-guided tour)	See facilitators in Atrium
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration	Atrium
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Vendor sales – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Regency
	Hosta Leaf Show – OPEN TO PUBLIC	Regency/Pine & Spruce
LUNCH	On your own	While on garden tour
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Presidents' Meeting	Lisle Executive Boardroom
4:00 pm	Vendor and Hosta Leaf Show teardown	Regency
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktails	Atrium
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Banquet	Majestic
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm	MRHS Business Meeting & Awards	Majestic
7:30 pm – 7:45 pm	Announcements, Show Awards, Previews	Majestic
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<u>Speaker:</u> Mike Nowak, Chicago Radio Personality and Illinois Master Gardener <u>Topic:</u> I'm not Really a Garden Expert— I Just Play One on the Radio	Majestic
9:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Convention Wrap-Up Meeting	Majestic
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hostality	Parlor 811 (8 th Floor)

Sunday, July 14

Morning	Checkout Removal of remaining convention items from hotel
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New Member Welcome to

Vern & Alice Steffen, St. Charles
Dayle and Mike Saar, Yorkville
Nancy Cottrell, Park Ridge



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.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS



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

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

SPECIAL TOUR	<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 HMHQ. They are not usually open to the public, so RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for this FREE guided tour! More info at www.2013MRHS.org . Preview the gardens at www.ballhort.com/ball/_ball_gardens.aspx
JUDGES CLINIC	<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 www.hosta.org <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to purchase the handbook (\$10) at the convention
HOSTA SHOW <small>(See the show schedule at convention website)</small>	<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)	
AUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/> YES! I will donate! <input type="checkbox"/> Plants - approximate number _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Non-plant items - approximate number _____	
FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	<input type="checkbox"/> CHICKEN <input type="checkbox"/> PORK <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL NEEDS: _____	
SATURDAY BANQUET	<input type="checkbox"/> CHICKEN <input type="checkbox"/> BEEF <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL NEEDS: _____	
ATTENDEE LIST	<input type="checkbox"/> YES! Please include my name and address on the convention attendee list provided to all attending Hosta Maniacs	
OTHER AREA GARDENS	There is a wealth of other public gardens to visit on your own near HMHQ and around the Chicago area. Visit www.2013MRHS.org 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

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 HMHQ 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 #

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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!

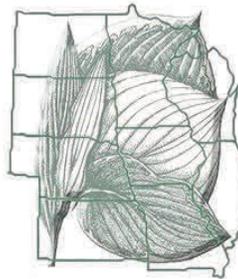
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March 1 - November 30: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday (closed Sundays)

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.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



June 2013 Leaf Display Report

Another edition of the NIHS Leaf Display and Sale at the Chicago Botanic Gardens is in the books and again it went very well from every aspect from attendance thru vendor sales. This year, we added a new wrinkle with Lou Horton offering a illustrated hosta presentation on Saturday and Tom Micheletti doing the same on Sunday. By all accounts, attendance and audience participation were good at all of the presentations.

Again this year we took an informal popularity poll of the hosta leaves on exhibit. The results are as follows:

1) **Olive Bailey Langdon**- 14 votes

2) **Orange Marmalade**- 13 votes

3) **Banana Boat**- 12 votes

Tie for 4) **Ginsu Knife** and **Lakeside Reflecting Glass** both with 10 votes each.

Many leaves got smaller numbers of votes.



From top left, Leaf Show display at Chicago Botanic Gardens & Jim Morrow answering hosta questions.

Right : Award winning seedling introduced by Doug Beilstein at AHS Convention Hosta Leaf Show.

American Hosta Society Convention in Brookfield, WI

The real fun began with the Garden Tours on Friday & Saturday June 14 & 15. Eleven gardens were open to drive to at your own pace. All of the gardens were lovely but I liked several gardens clustered in the south for their over-the-top results.

Bill Radler invented the Knock Out roses and displays his rose trial gardens complete with formal brick walkways integrated with his display gardens mostly in raised beds. The waterfalls provided the soothing sounds, the stream meandered the 2 acres with many interesting plants and trees.

Dave Sievert loves mosses and rocks. His Japanese garden includes several moss gardens. The rear of his property includes extensive granite cobblestone walkways and over 5,000 locally reused rocks that he installed himself. Dave says he has collected hundreds of different varieties of mosses that he displays in containers throughout the garden.

Owen Purvis' was our last and most interesting garden. Owen's city lot is bursting with mature hostas including many that he has hybridized himself. Over 700 named varieties pack the front yard, parkway, and rear yard. With some ferns, martagon lilies and other perennials this collection is a show stopper.

When talking with Sue Purvis we learned Owen & Sue will be moving next Spring. Owen plans to move his plant collection including a tall magnolia to a new home - just the 2 of them providing the muscle. Now they are hostaholics!

Ron Asselborn



Visitors enjoy Joy Collura's garden.



Purvis Garden at 2013 AHS Convention



One of Dave Sievert's moss & rock gardens.



Hostatality Walk-About Garden Visit in Oakbrook

July 28th, 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 not unaccustomed 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 Street 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 (31st 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. Please park only on the east side of Madison.

Cemetery Hostas

Another use for hostas - tough, enduring & beautiful.

What more could the departed Hostaholic want.

Photo from Bob Solberg's Green Hill Farm home page
[https://](https://www.hostahosta.com)

www.hostahosta.com





Let's Enjoy and Celebrate Beautiful Hosta Blooms

By Erling Grovenstein, Jr.

In the last few years, my hostas have mostly disappeared thanks to their good nutritious properties and the appetite of voles. The voles evidently found their way through the protective nest of sharp rocks ("Permatil") in which they were planted. Since I could not resist purchasing some of the beautiful hostas the vendors were displaying at hosta shows, I have now resorted to growing my hostas in pots – an idea encouraged by the beautiful potted hosta garden of Tony Wright and Judy Burns. Our pots were placed on the patio in full view of our dining table. This change has forced us to view the hostas all through the growing season. Guess what, hostas frequently have beautiful blooms!

Why do we keep hosta blooms hidden from the public in hosta shows? One explanation is that hosta shows must be held early in the spring as soon as the hosta leaves have matured and since hostas bloom throughout the long growing season it is impossible to display most of them in hosta shows. While the facts are correct, the reasoning seems strange. Most flowering plants are grown for their blooms with beautiful foliage being an added benefit. The fact that hostas bloom at different times, dependent upon the particular cultivar and that some cultivar is apt to be in bloom at any time during the growing season, makes hostas a more valuable garden plant. Not many plant species are blessed with such a prolonged period of bloom.

Should not hosta shows demonstrate the value of hosta blooms to the general public? Some people say that the bloom scapes of hostas are too tall – too tall for what? A bloom on a tall scape means that the bloom can be seen when planted near the back of a bed of perennials. This can be an advantage.

Some hosta scapes are too short. To me this means that some of the blooms are hidden by the foliage. This seems to be a rare condition and can surely be corrected by our skillful hybridizers.

Some hosta scapes are too weak; this means that the scape bends down with heavy blooms or seed pods. Again, this condition can be solved by skillful selection by hybridizers.

Some people say they do not like hosta blooms. Of course beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and it is fortunate that we do not all like the same things. I prefer variety in my garden. Some people say they do not like hosta blooms because they "only last one day." While this may be technically true, the same is true for daylily blooms, which are very popular all over the United States. The daylily bloom obviously collapses

after one day such that spent blooms are generally picked before opening the garden for display ("grooming" or "dead heading" this is called). Most hosta blooms are pretty while the bud is forming and slowly opening and are still days after opening such that a single scape seems to possess multiple blooms. Hosta bloom scapes have a unique beauty of their own, different from most other flowers.

The colors of hosta blooms range from a rich purple, as in *H. 'Betsy King'*, to lavender, to pure white, as in *H. Plantaginea*. Clear colors in this range are lacking in flowers such as *Hemerocallis*.

What can be done to make hosta blooms better recognized and cherished? The most obvious thing is to quit cutting off hosta bloom scapes before they bloom so people may be able to enjoy seeing them. Second, hosta blooms need to be shown in hosta shows along with the beautiful leaves. The fact that the blooms of hosta occur throughout the growing season, the exact time being dependent on the variety, means that only a small fraction of hosta blooms can be seen at ordinary leaf shows. Additional hosta shows should be held, possibly monthly during growing season, to display the great beautiful variety of hosta blooms. Such shows would educate hosta club members and the public on the garden value of hosta blooms and encourage them to grow the bloom types found most pleasing.

Finally, recognition of the value of hosta blooms in the garden would encourage hybridizers to create even more beautiful hosta blooms. At present, hybridizers are working almost entirely to create beautiful hosta leaves. Most of this work has been devoted to variegated hostas, which means leaves having colors white or yellow arranged or splashed on the green leaf in what is considered an attractive pattern. Such a plant is called a chimera." This word refers to an imaginary Greek monster generally depicted as having a lion's head, a goat's body, and the tail of a dragon or serpent. A more modern meaning of "chimera" is a frightful, vain, or foolish fancy. Chimeras in the world of hostas do represent a beautiful but evanescent fancy that with passage of time will disappear from this earth. Wouldn't it be better for hybridizers to work on something of more permanent value? A plant having white or yellow in place of green chlorophyll is always weaker and more perishable than the corresponding all green variety.

Courtesy of the Georgia Hosta Society's newsletter, Georgia Hosta Notes, January 2012

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

By Bob Solberg

Summer (Period of bloom and seed set) June-July-August

The time of bloom in hosta species and their cultivars varies from late May or June to September. A particular hosta will normally bloom once for about 3 weeks during the summer, producing a flower scape from the growing bud that just finished producing the flushes of leaves. The scape has a number of lily-like flowers that are open for one day only and are bee pollinated. (*H. Plantaginea* opens in the evening and may be moth pollinated.)

Seed pods are formed from fertilized ovaries at the base of the pistil and swell in size. Black, single-winged seeds are usually ripe in 6-8 weeks.

Labeling: Replace the labels that the squirrels have pulled up.

Light: This is the brightest and more importantly, hottest light of the year. The sun is at its maximum height in the sky and often beds that were bathed in shade in early May are now in full sun. Hostas can tolerate direct light but they hate heat! If leaf margins begin to brown, it may be time to move that hosta to a cooler spot in the garden. On the other hand, year by year shade gardens become shadier. Consider removing a branch here or there during the summer to create spotlights of bright light in the garden. Maybe even consider removing an entire tree, but that should probably wait until winter.

Nutrients: Blooming hostas still need nutrients to maintain their foliage and produce seeds but not a high nitrogen diet. If you are liquid feeding weekly, continue if there is ample rain. In times of drought reduce feeding to every other week. Discontinue any supplemental foliar feeding; hosta leaves have expanded to their maximum by now. Remember if it doesn't rain, then your slow release fertilizer is not being released. Irrigation may be a good idea.

Pests: If it turns dry, the deer will show up looking for some lush hosta foliage full of water. Spray deer repellent every 3 weeks or more often and rotate your favorite brands. Leave the electric fence on at all times. Be on the look out for the symptoms of foliar nematodes, those nasty brown streaks. If you have a major problem, remove the most highly infected hostas and water less and feed less. Starve the hostas and stress the worms.

Quarantine your garden. If you have a minor issue, remove infected hostas and all the ones touching them. A few years of this may eliminate the problem almost complete-

ly.

Protection: Watch for petiole rot. This fungus attacks the base of hosta petioles, secreting a substance that eats through the plant tissue causing the leaves to fall on the ground. This usually occurs in the first hot dry weather of the summer. Pull back mulch. Treat with 10% bleach solution immediately and retreat if necessary. There are also fungicides (e.g. Terrachlor) that can be applied. Other fungi may attack the hosta leaves, especially in hot, humid climates in wet summers. Apply fungicides (e.g. Daconil) as a preventative in late June every 2 weeks as necessary. Rotate fungicides.

Propagation: Divide hostas as the heat of summer passes. August is the best time to drastically divide and plant or pot hostas. Try to give your hostas 6 weeks before the first frost to establish new roots in their new home.

Water: Like nutrients, a hosta's demands for water are reduced after their leaves are mature. Increased temperatures however, increase the transpiration rate, the rate at which the water is pulled out of the hosta leaves, requiring more water to replace it. Transpiration affects trees to an even greater degree as they pump water up and out of the garden soil. In hot

weather sometimes keeping your hostas full of water all day long is a constant battle. Continue the fight.

Dry soil may cause your hostas to go heat dormant or worse, dry rot at the bottom of the crown. In heavily shaded gardens, irrigation during the day can cool those hot leaves.

Fun! Cut some scapes after a couple of flowers have opened and bring them inside to enjoy for two or more weeks. Cut and remove the other scapes when 75% of the flowers have opened, unless you wish to save the seeds. Take in a hosta convention; regional events are inexpensive and allow plenty of time to socialize. Visit other local gardens and get some new ideas. Remember to bring a hosta along as a gift. Begin to plant new acquisitions.

from "The Green Hill Gossip" by Bob Solberg

Hosta June





Hostas That Make Scents

by Bob Streitmatter

With garden design, taking full advantage of all the senses is what can make a garden truly special or memorable. Often, the visual attributes of plants like fall color, flower and form take precedence over fragrance. In the "Hosta World", some of this bias lies in the fact that the most noted fragrant hosta, are the commonplace *H. plantaginea* cultivars, 'Honeybells' and 'Royal Standard'. I don't want to slight either, as they are both vigorous hosta, useful as a groundcover or as a backbone of a shade garden. To be honest, I have a special fondness for some of these older introductions. However, there are many hosta with a beautiful fragrance as well as pleasing visual attributes.

Listed below are a few of the fragrant hosta I am familiar with, by no means a complete list. When using fragrant plants, I like to place them where one can fully appreciate them. Plant them along a path or patio, near a bench or near an entrance. The places within the garden where you pause or rest are the most likely places for fragrant plants. I will often place fragrant shrubs like Dwarf Korean Lilac or Koreanspice Viburnum near a patio. In our garden I have placed a highly fragrant, Burkwood Viburnum as a backing for a bench.

As is often the case, it is more effective to display or plant in groups of three or more. This is especially true for fragrant plants. In my old garden, I planted a mass of 'Royal Standard' along a path, back-dropping a stone water basin. It happened to be in a location sheltered from the wind, purely happenstance; however it allowed the scent to concentrate. With each passing, you were richly rewarded with the delicate fragrance. In the quietness of the evening the fragrance seemed to intensify. This experience has had a lasting impact on how I approach design. Remember, always use your senses in garden design and try a few fragrant hosta this year!!!

H. 'Aqua Velva' has large crinkled blue green leaves with intense corrugation and some slug resistance. Fragrant lavender flowers.

H. 'Avocado' is very nice sport of Hosta 'Guacamole' with dark green margin which is quite wide and surrounds a narrow gold center. Overall appearance of the plant is a lot darker than its parent and the leaves seem to be thicker. Pale lavender fragrant flowers.

H. 'Fragrant Blue' blue-cast flowers opening to white in mid-late summer; small hosta, 8" height, with blue green foliage.

H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' 1998 Hosta of the Year; white flowers in mid-late summer; bright green leaves with broad, irregular creamy edge.

H. 'Fried Bananas' is a gold leaved sport of 'Guacamole'. It forms a large mound of beautiful glossy golden leaves and attains its best color in very light shade.

H. 'Fried Green Tomatoes' is a softly frosted green form of 'Guacamole'. The large green leaves darken in color as the season progresses. Magnificent, fragrant, pale lavender flowers in August and vigorous in growth. A great contrast to 'Fragrant Bouquet'.

H. 'Flower Power' one of the earliest blooming lavender flowers; large hosta, slightly ruffled with a frosted appearance turning green as season progresses.

H. 'Guacamole' has become one of my favorites because it is a vigorous grower with clean foliage late into the fall. It has white flowers in mid-late summer; avocado green leaves with wide, darker green edge; sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet'. Continued on page 14

Hostas That Make Scents

continued

H. 'Honeybells' pale lavender flowers in mid-late summer; light green leaves. H. 'Hoosier Harmony' white flowers in mid-late summer; gold-centered leaves with green edge; sport of H. 'Royal Standard'.

H. 'Invincible' pale lavender flowers in midsummer; bright green leaves that are slightly wavy and distinctly veined; sun tolerant and somewhat pest resistant.

H. 'Ming Treasure' is a H. plantaginea sport with green leaves surrounded by a soft yellow margin. It bears fragrant white flowers and is classified as a medium sized hosta at maturity.

H. 'Moonlight Sonata' has elegant bluish-green foliage becoming shiny green in midsummer. It has cupped and wavy leaves with good substance and somewhat slug resistant. It bears large fragrant white flowers in midsummer.

H. plantaginea has huge, 4-5" long white flowers in mid-late summer; shiny green leaves; sun tolerant. There is some confusion whether Hosta plantaginea 'Grandiflora' is the same plant, it probably is.

H. 'Royal Standard' white flowers in mid-late summer; glossy green leaves; sun tolerant.

H. 'So Sweet' nearly white flowers in mid-late summer; soft green leaves with broad, pale gold edge.

H. 'Sugar and Cream' nearly white flowers in mid late summer; large, wavy, green leaves with creamy edge; a mutation of 'Honeybells'.

H. 'Summer Fragrance' lavender-purple flowers; foliage has a green center streaked with light and dark green and white margins.

From the Central Illinois Hosta Society's newsletter, Great Expectations, July 2011.

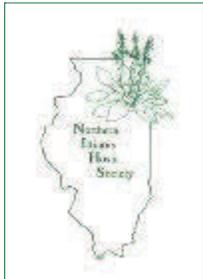
Hosta Fragrant Bouquet



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Hosta Aphrodite bloom



The Northern Illinois Hosta Society is dedicated to educating the public and promoting the use of hosta in the landscape. NIHS serves the people of Northern Illinois and surrounding areas.



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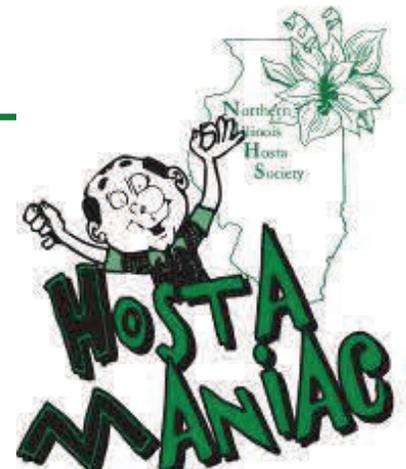
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