

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 83

AUGUST 2013

2013/2014 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **September 8, Potluck & Plant Swap & Annual Meeting, 1-4 pm at Mary Ann Brucher's, Downers Grove**
- **December Holiday Party, Dec 8 at the home of Penny and Carl Fulkerson in Kildeer**
- **January 2014, Winter Scientific Meeting, Jan 18 in the Chicago area**
- **March 23, 1 - 4 pm: Potluck and Accessory Swap at the home of Billie and Sam Childress in West Chicago**
- **June 11-14 American Hosta Society 2014 Convention, in Cedar Rapids, IA**
- **June 26-28, 2014 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Green Bay, WI**



President's Letter

Convention Retrospective

HOSTAMANIA is now a wonderful memory. All of us in NIHS should congratulate ourselves on a very successful convention. A few of the highlights follow. The garden tours also brought many accolades. Here, for example, is a comment one attendee was kind enough to send me:

"Our favorites are always the gardens - we were able to see the Morton Arboretum which we had wanted to do for a long time - we have been to Ball many times over the years but this was



the best it has ever been! The Hosta [tour] gardens were terrific - the specimen plants were magnificent."

Vendors were happy with the traffic, particularly walk-ins
Continued page 2



Socialize at the Fall Potluck, Plant Swap & Annual Meeting Sept 8, 1:00pm

Our annual potluck, followed by a brief business meeting and the plant swap will be held at the home of Mary Ann Brucher, 3821 Florence Avenue, in Downer's Grove. Bring a dish to pass and plants to swap. **RSVP by Sept 5 to brucher7@aol.com or 630-969-4078.**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From 31st Street (Oak Brook Road) turn south onto Meyers Road. Meyers Road is 2.3 miles west of Hwy 83 and 1.0 mile east of Highland Avenue. Proceed for 1.0 mile on Meyers. Turn left (east) onto 38th Street and take the first right turn onto Florence Avenue. 3821 will be on the left.

From Ogden Avenue (about 0.9 miles east of Highland Avenue and about 4 miles west of I-294) turn north onto Fairview Avenue and proceed about 1 mile to 39th Street. Turn right (east) on 39th and take the first left turn onto Florence. The house will be on the right.

President's Letter *continued*

from the public that boosted their sales. At least two of the vendors told me as they were loading their vans at the end that this was one of the best conventions they've been to, and they would love to come back next time we do this. (No conventions on the horizon!)

The seminar speakers, Tom Micheletti and Mary Ann Metz, also received high marks for their well-attended presentations.

Attendees that I talked with were impressed with how smoothly events unfolded; everyone warmly praised the hotel, its staff, the food and their rooms. From my point of view, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton was a top-notch facility, and the staff was in all cases professional and accommodating from the time we began negotiations more than a year ago through the final moments of Saturday's banquet. I think that after the efforts of our NIHS convention committee and volunteers, credit for our success should be shared with this venue for creating a hospitable environment.

The best news of all about the convention is that we are just a hair from breaking even on the costs! After an expected loss of over \$3,000 based on our 150 registrations, the ledger shows that we are less than \$150 away from being in the black with all bills paid. Congratulations to everyone on the committee who worked so hard and kept expenses in their area to a minimum. And especially heartfelt thanks to the more than 50 NIHS members, plus many from other MRHS societies, who volunteered in various capacities to help make everything work so well. It never would have happened without YOU!

Annual Meeting, Potluck and Plant Swap Sunday, September 8 - I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at this meeting, which begins at 1:00 pm at the

home of Mary Ann Brucher, 3821 Florence Avenue, in Downer's Grove. We will begin with a potluck, followed by a brief business meeting and the plant swap. This is our only business meeting of the year, and it's important because this time we will elect officers for the next biennium—see the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee on Page 5. Other nominations may be made from the floor. Our treasurer will also present a proposed budget for the next year. Other than that, there will be only a short (I promise!) report from the president. If anyone has other items that should be on the agenda, please contact me.

Once business is taken care of, we will have some fun with the plant swap. Anyone wishing to participate should bring a plant or plants—any variety, not necessarily hosta—to swap for one someone else has brought. Of course you get to pick as many plants as you bring.

Although I used the dreaded word "business" to describe a portion of this annual event, it is always a

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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

President's Letter *continued*

lot of fun, so put it on your calendar now and plan to come. Thank You!

Two highly valued members of the NIHS Board have decided not to continue after the Annual Meeting, and I want to thank them on behalf of the whole society for their contributions.

Kristine James has been a superb Membership Secretary for the last two years, and I can't imagine anyone doing a better job at this very important post. She has held the same position for some time for MRHS and will continue to do so. We were fortunate that she took over from Pete Postlewaite and that Pete's guidance and Kristine's MRHS experience made for a seamless transition. Kristine also was the Registrar for Hostamania, which was also a very important responsibility. Thank you, Kristine for all you have done.

Dennis and Connie Hood got more than they bargained for when they took over the Treasurer's job two years ago. Not only did they have to keep track of NIHS finances, but they got a convention, too! The recordkeeping for both must be detailed and correct, and no one could have performed this task more conscientiously than they did. They worked closely with Kristine to keep track of registrations for Hostamania while also maintaining NIHS records. Thank you both for your hard work as well as the loyalty and concern you have demonstrated for NIHS.

See you September 8!

Barbara

Leaf Show winners at the 2013 MRHS Convention, Page 1 and right.



My First Plant Auction

Participating in my first NIHS Auction & Plant Sale was an exhilarating experience. Taking home a van full of hostas and companion plants was very satisfying. We previewed the gorgeous plants on tables prior to the auction. I grabbed 3 variegated Jacob's Ladder in the sale prior to the auction. After snacks to fortify myself I plunged into the bidding. About 40 buyers participated in the auction. The most expensive plant was a gorgeous pot of Hosta Allegan Fog that sold for \$44. Most plants were more reasonable in the \$8 -10 range for very nice specimens.

Mark Rekoske, organizer, introduced a Raffle this year which attracted considerable interest featuring a 5 gallon pot of Hosta Aphrodite won by Eileen Gustafson, a new member, who pulled her own ticket from the bowl! All the participants were smiling at the conclusion as Tom Micheletti, auctioneer, closed out over 200 sales. Now, where to put the newbies?

Volunteer Opportunities!

HOSTALITY WALK-ABOUT GARDEN HOSTS

Mark Rekoske is looking for gardeners willing to open their gardens in July & August 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 .

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

The present Board has never filled the Publicity Director position called for in the NIHS by-laws. Our continuing success requires a focus on “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. Contact Barbara King.

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 in Sept 2014. Contact Barbara King.

Thank you!!

Many thanks to the following businesses for their generous auction plant donations:

- ◆ Gary Antioch of Your Growing Concerns, Inc.
- ◆ Jeff Miller of Land of the Giants
- ◆ Home Depot
- ◆ Hampshire Farms



Tom Micheletti, auctioneer and plant expert, above. Happy auction bidders Janny Cornejo & Javier Romero of Hinsdale, right.

Auction & Sale Amazing Results

Our net profit was \$2,279. Thanks to all who helped!

“Mark Rekoske did an outstanding job of organizing the event” - frequent attendee comments.

Barbara King got the publicity out & Dennis Hood solicited several nurseries and brought in a truckload of plants.

Lou Horton & Pete Postlewaite were the auction accountants. June Vandervest delivered a nice assortment of refreshments.

Tom Micheletti performed yeoman' duty with humor and expertise as the auctioneer.

Marsha Rekoske handled the Raffle.

Andy Campbell, Mike Kraus & Jim Morrow moved & displayed the auction plants.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

REPORT OF THE NIHS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society proposes the following slate of officers for election at the NIHS Annual Meeting, September 8, 2013.

President	Barbara King
Vice President for Programming	Mark Rekoske
Vice President for Hospitality	June Vandervest
Membership Secretary	Mike Kraus
Recording Secretary	Penny Fulkerson
Treasurer	Andy Campbell

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS MAY BE MADE AT THE MEETING

Please Note: Appointment to other Board positions, as specified in the by-laws, will be made by the Executive Committee (above) after the election.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Eaton John Van Ostrand Billie Childress



New Member Welcome to

Gary and Cheryl Antonich, Campton Hills

Bette Barkdoll and Harold Hurwitz,
Downers Grove

Eileen Gustafson, Des Plaines

Alice and James Snelgrove, Naperville



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 includes email versions of 4 newsletters.

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.



MRHS Convention Fun!

Clockwise from top left: Visitors enjoy the Asselborn pond & plantings, from left Gloria Green, Jean Norris, & Cheryl Lockhart from Mississippi; H. Blue Angel dominates the Rogers' back yard; smiling Mary Ann Metz enjoying the lovely day and Tour gardens; & anticipating dinner are (from left) Speaker Mike Nowak, Barbara King, Jim King & Judy Pohorsky of Cedar Rapids, IA.



Table decorations above created by June Vander-vest & her committee of artists.

The Hosta Patch

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Come by and pick them up!

Appointment is necessary

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“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!

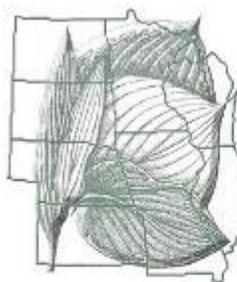
***Lovely shade-tolerant conifers and Japanese maples
make great companion plants for hostas!***

***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.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



***Hostality Walk About -Bea McGovern's
on June 23***

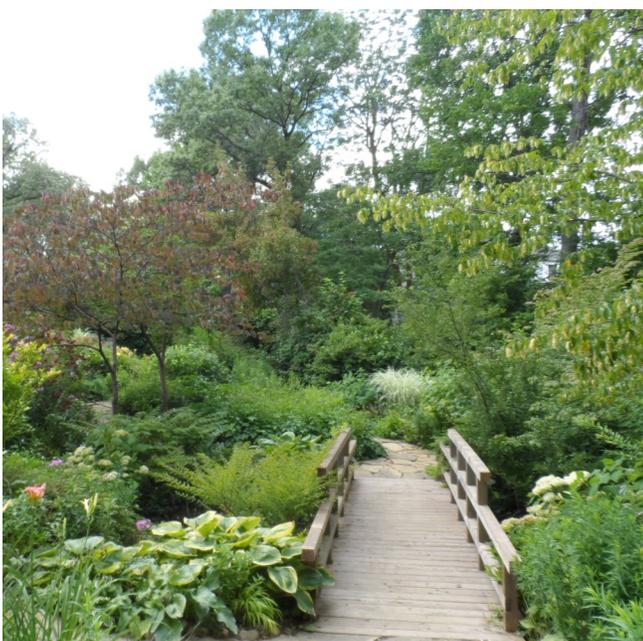
Clockwise from top right: Bea & Dee enjoying the garden; Fairies on the porch roof; Fairy garden in a bowl; Larger fairy garden in the corner; & not-to-be-missed fairies amongst the garden.

An added bonus was the garden 2 doors down which featured dragons. Delightful!

Hostality Walk About - Susan Beard's on July 28

Clockwise from right: View of the house from the entrance gates; paved path off the patio near the swimming pool; mixed bed with daylilies & hosta in full sun; sturdy bridge over drainage swale leading to more natural garden areas; 1,000s of daylilies were in bloom during our visit. Just gorgeous.

Note: Doesn't Mark Rekoske arrange wonderful weather for these garden walks!





“Vote early, vote often.”
–Bob Olson

The American Hosta Society Popularity Poll 2013

Please rank in order of preference from most liked (1)
to least favorite.

Favorite Hostas

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____

Favorite Minis

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

**Article ideas for
The Hosta Journal:**

Name _____

City/ State _____

E-Mail _____

Pls mail completed ballot to: Bob Olson, AHS Popularity Poll, 2840 Glenhurst, St. Louis Park MN 55416

Or Email to : TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com

Or Vote Online: www.hosta.org

Note: Only current members of the American Hosta Society may vote.

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

from "The Green Hill Gossip" by Bob Solberg

Late Summer (Growth of buds for next year) late-August-September

With the full extension of the flowering inflorescence, the growing tip, (meristem), of the hosta shoot is carried high into the air, at the end of the scape. New "dormant" buds now begin to form at the base of the scape, that will go through cold dormancy and produce the new shoots and leaves of the plant in the next spring. Ideally, three buds are formed, but frequently less are formed by large hosta cultivars. In some early flowering hostas, these buds may produce a second growth of new shoots, leaves, flower scapes and more dormant buds the same summer, especially if they are grown in areas where the growing season is long, as in the Southeastern US.

Labeling: Place plant labels, temporary or permanent, with each new hosta. Bury a plastic label with the plant name in pencil in the same position for each hosta. Map garden if you are so inclined.

Light: Days begin to shorten, hostas begin to look tired.

Nutrients: Fertilize newly planted hostas with 10-10-10 or a little slow release fertilizer. If some hostas make a few new leaves then liquid feed once in August.

Pests: Check for voles moving into the garden. Check for foliar nematodes, again. Check the oldest leaves. If the deer still want your hostas, then at some point, open the gate and let them clean up the garden for you.

Protection: Mulch newly worked areas.

Propagation: Continue to divide hostas. Try to get them finished 6 weeks before the first frost. You can do it

later but remember hostas do not grow roots over the winter.

Water: Turn off the irrigation and put the hoses away. Lack of water will encourage dormancy. Of course, continue to water your new plantings. I use a watering can.

Fun! Look for fall specials from your favorite hosta nurseries. Hostas planted in the fall will look a year older than the ones you buy next spring. Continue to plant new acquisitions. Start collecting seeds from early flowering hostas.



Entry to Olga Petryszyn's home on the June bus tour.

Fall (Maturation of seeds and onset of dormancy) late September-October-November

As the days shorten toward winter, hostas prepare for dormancy. As the chloroplasts begin to break down and the bright yellows of hidden pigments, carotenes and xanthophylls, begin to appear, green hosta leaves turn to gold. The leaves then begin to dry and petioles weaken and droop. The dry air helps the ripe seed pods to spring open, allowing the seeds to fly away on the wind.

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The Hosta Gardening Calendar

Continued from page 12

Usually it takes two or three hard freezes to knock the shriveled hosta foliage to the ground, while the flower scapes will persist intact through the first snows of winter.

Labeling: Make sure every hosta has a label before it becomes unidentifiable. The ones in pots probably need a new label as well. They tend to fade over the winter.

Light: The leaves are falling and the light continues to fade never the less. The days shorten inducing dormancy.

Nutrients: None needed.

Pests: Only the voles are a problem now. Begin to bait and trap again.

Protection: Remove tree leaves from the garden to discourage the voles from moving in. I use a leaf blower and not a rake. Finish cutting flower scapes. Apply mulch to your new plantings and touch up as needed.

Propagation: Hurry up! It is almost too late.

Water: Make sure your hostas are full of water the night before the first hard freeze. Usually rain comes with the first real cold front of the season, but if the fall has been dry you might need to soak the garden one more time before you lock the pump house for the winter.

Fun! Collect a few seeds and plant them right away. They will be up in 2-3 weeks and you will have a few hostas to play with all winter. Cheer up. I know your hostas look terrible now, tired from another full turn of their life cycle. This last sad memory of them as they retire for the year, I believe, just makes them look that much more perfect when they emerge with their fresh leaves next spring. Take a break, you have earned it!

How late is too late to Plant Hostas in the Fall?

August is a great time to plant hostas almost anywhere in the country. You can safely plant them all month in the Midwest and North and the latter half of the month in the South. My standard rule is you want to get them in the ground 4-6 weeks before the first frost. This allows them to make some new roots while the soil is still warm and then have some time to prepare for winter.

Most of us, though, have planted hostas in the ground later than that with good success. I have planted them as late as the first week of November without any noticeable ill effects. You do run a risk with late planting however. Hostas are completely dormant during the winter, and they will not produce new roots until after they have made new foliage in the spring. They literally sleep through the winter.

Late planted hostas may rot over the winter if 1) the ground is frozen and stays frozen shortly after they are planted, 2) they are very dry when the ground freezes, 3) the soil stays too wet because of poor winter drainage or 4) heaving occurs during cycles of the soil freezing and thawing. Snow cover or a covering of mulch will help with all these situations. Remember, blue hostas, as well as many gold hostas, with *H. sieboldiana* and *H. 'Tokudama'* parents as well as some *H. longipes* types are the most susceptible to winter kill. Miniature hostas may also completely heave out of the ground, resulting in cold damage to the crown.

So, with late hosta planting, first make sure the plants are full of water when the first hard frost hits. Then try a little mulch to protect the hosta crowns and moderate soil temperatures. (Beware! Deep mulches may entice mice and voles to make their winter homes in your hosta garden.) With a little luck from the winter weather you can probably extend your planting season another month or so, even after the first frost. **By Bob Solberg** of Green Hill Farm, Reprinted from Delmarva Hosta Society

NIHS Bus Tour June 2013 to Northwest Indiana

*Clockwise from top right: The Brincka-Cross garden was our 1st stop. Tour members experiencing the extensive hosta garden with many old favorites. *Stewartia pseudocamellia* flower seen here at the Brincka-Cross garden. The tree in flower was also seen at Olga Petryszyn's & Judy Kroczek's gardens & prompted much discussion. The screen house overlooking the hosta garden. Finally, the upholstered powder room hidden on the 2nd floor of the residence.*



NIHS Bus Tour June 2013 to Northwest Indiana
Gardens # 2 & 3 Trillium Woods & Dave & Bev Stegeman



Hostaholics are satisfying their hosta needs at Dan Coffman's Trillium Woods above.

The tour visitors enjoying the Stegeman hosta beds and marveling at the size and vigor of their plants, above.

Dave & Bev Stegeman (dark shirts) dividing their originator stock of h. 'Midnight Oil' for eager HIHS hostaholics, below.



The Stegeman garden and their famous shade structure, above.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
 HOSTA HAPPENINGS



#6 left.
 Olga prominently displays the Stegeman's first registered hosta, 'Skylight', in her patio garden.



#1 Olga, a renown hybridizer, greeting NIHS visitors.

NIHS Bus Tour June 2013 to Northwest Indiana
 Garden #4 - Olga Petryszyn



#2 right. Olga demonstrates her hybridizing technique step by step.

#3 below.
 The hostaholics observe Olga's demonstration with rapt attention.



#5 above.
 Olga holds the fertilized flower for her audience.

#4 left.
 Olga demonstrates the piece de resistance - moving pollen to the ovary with a Q-tip.



**NIHS Bus Tour June 2013 to Northwest
Indiana, Garden #5 - Judy Kroczek**



Mark Rekoske, right, presents the NIHS commemorative brick to Judy Kroczek & her husband, Dr. Stephen Kroczek.



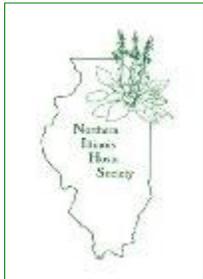
Whimsy and artistry describe the Kroczek's garden. Judy has created extensive mixed gardens on their large estate with numerous garden sculptures and focal points. See garden scenes above and below.



NIHS Membership Secretary

523 E. Calhoun St.

Woodstock, IL 60098



h. 'Abbigua
Drinking
Gourd',
2014 Hosta
of the Year



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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Ducks on Parade in the King MRHS Tour garden