

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 84

MARCH 2014

## 2014 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **March 23, 1-4 pm: Potluck and Accessory Swap at the home of Billie and Sam Childress in West Chicago**
- **May 4, 1-3 pm: Sponsor Plant pickup & Meeting with Guest Speaker, Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines**
- **May 31 & June 1, 10-4 pm, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**
- **June 8, 2-5 pm, Hosta Garden Walk at Teddy & Howard Goldman's, Northbrook**
- **June 11-14 American Hosta Society 2014 Convention, in Cedar Rapids, IA**
- **June 21, 7 am - 7 pm, Bus Tour to gardens in Western Michigan**
- **June 26-28, 2014 Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention, Green Bay, WI**
- **July 13, 2-5 pm, Hosta Garden Walk 2-fer at Marcia Jendreas & Colleen Graudins', Prospect Heights**
- **July 27, 2-5 pm, Hosta Garden Walk at Tanner Musso's, Hinsdale**
- **August 10, 1-5 pm, Plant Auction, Hinsdale Community House**
- **Sept 7, 1-4 pm, Hosta Potluck, Annual Mtg, & Plant Swap, @ Judi & Ron Asselborn's, Campton Hills**

## President's Letter

What a winter! And it's not over, though let's hope that in a few weeks we will be seeing signs of spring. The King garden is the object of fervent prayer, magic tricks and voodoo rites in the hope that everything will survive. Certainly some of you are in a similar situation, and of course we all know that the outcome is not in our hands. Hostas are amazingly hardy plants. It's some of the others I worry about.

Please welcome two new and one not-so-new NIHS board members, who accepted appointments after the annual meeting in September: **Colleen Graudins and Dennis Hood** (former NIHS treasurer), who will be Directors at Large, and **Marcia Jendreas**, our new Publicity Chair. We are very grateful that you are willing to share your time, ideas, and expertise with us. Complete board information is at the end of this newsletter.

Since our last newsletter nearly six months ago, many members have stayed in touch by participating in several of our events. First there was the Annual Meeting and Potluck on September 8 at the home of **Mary Ann Brucher** in Downers Grove. Mary Ann deserves our sincere thanks for being such a well-prepared, gracious and attentive hostess to the 35 or so of us who attended. (To learn what happened at the business meeting, see the minutes on page 27). Two months later, on a snowy December 8, **Penny and Carl Fulkerson** warmly welcomed us to their lovely home in Kildeer, for a memorable Holiday Party. Thank you Penny and Carl. NIHS member-cooks provided delicious food, as they always do. **June Vandervest**, our Hospitality Chair, coordinated preparations and helped extensively at both these *continued on page 2*



## In this Issue:

Important Notices	2
Spring Potluck	3
June Bus Trip	4
Sponsor Plants & Mtg	6
Members Spotlight	8
AHS Convention	11
Cantigny Garden	12
MRHS Convention	14
New Minis Group	15
2013 MRHS Convention Article	16
2013 Holiday Party	18
"Field Guide to Hostas" Purchase Opportunity	20
June Hosta Walk	21
Articles & Info	22 - 25
Meeting Minutes	26 & 27

## President's Letter *continued*

events in her usual stellar fashion. Thanks, June.

The MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting on January 18 brought out a large contingent of NIHS members despite—surprise!—cold, snowy weather. Several speakers tantalized us with news and ideas about hostas and other plants to implement in our own gardens when the aforementioned spring arrives. **Lou Horton**, who has planned this event for quite a few years, will be stepping back from that role. **Mark Rekoske**, NIHS VP for Programs, and one or two people in other MRHS societies are assuming it. Lou, we thank you for all you have done and hope you will long remain a part of this informative event. Thanks to your planning and hard work, and **Tom Micheletti's** before you, WSM has long been a welcome respite from the winter doldrums of suffering hostaphiles.

A major project has begun, and is nearly complete, since being presented to the NIHS membership at the annual meeting. In October I convened a Website Committee to update and redesign the NIHS website. Members include **Mike Kraus, Mark Rekoske, and Colleen Gaudins**; Mike serves as chair, and **Floyd Rogers** is the group's technical adviser. Mike, Mark and Colleen performed an extensive review of websites of other hosta and plant societies to determine what seemed to work and what didn't, and how to apply what they learned to our needs. Their efforts and Floyd's sage advice have resulted in a new site that will soon be available online. I think you will be very pleased. The preliminary site looks terrific and makes a great deal of information about us more accessible to members, site visitors, and prospective members. Our plan is to make this improved website a tool for sharing information and communicating with you, our members, and for enticing new members to join us. Mark, Colleen, Floyd and especially Mike deserve huge amounts of thanks and praise for what they have produced after their many, many hours of work on this project.

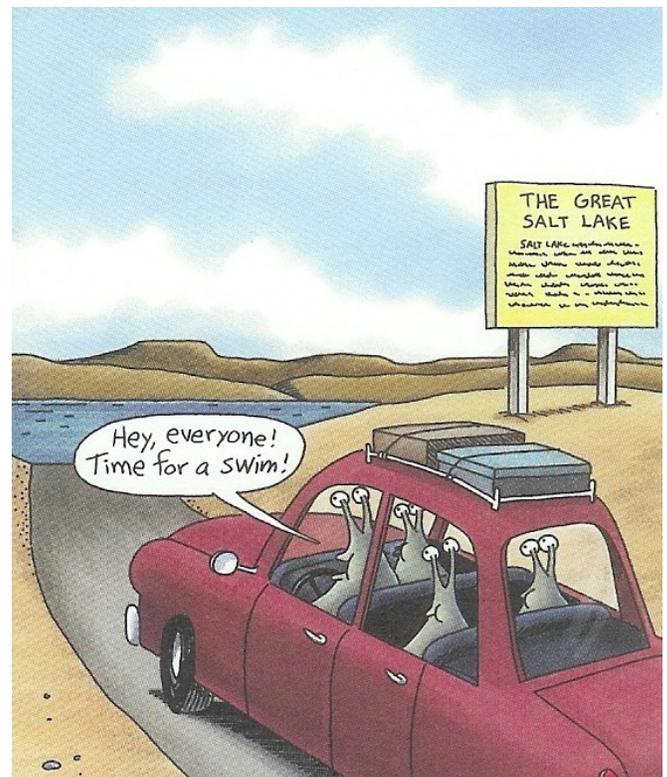
Coming up on March 23 is the Spring Potluck and White Elephant Tool/Accessory Swap at the home of **Billie and Sam Childress** in West Chicago (see the details on the next page). Billie and Mark Rekoske are planning some new and different activities you won't want to miss. This will be a great opportunity for new members to get acquainted and to learn more about what we do. We will also be glad to see old NIHS friends and colleagues after a winter of semi-hibernation and isolation, before improved weather calls us outside to monitor our beloved hostas. Hope to see you there! **Barbara**

## Important Member Notices

Membership chair Mike Kraus reports that several memberships that expired on December 31, as all NIHS memberships do, have not been renewed. **NOW is the time to send your renewal check of \$20 for the next two years** so that you can be included in the 2014 Membership Handbook. It is being prepared now for delivery to all member households in April. Mail your check, made out to NIHS, to Mike at 6311 Carrie Court, Crystal Lake, IL 60014-4741.

Speaking of the Membership Handbook, it has always contained the names, addresses and phone numbers of all NIHS members. It is distributed **ONLY** to active NIHS members. **Email addresses will be added this year unless you specifically tell us that you do not want yours included.** We will continue to use email addresses for newsletter delivery and other NIHS business communications **ONLY** and will not share them with any other business, organization, or individual.

**To opt out** of having your email address in the handbook, contact [Nl.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:Nl.hosta@gmail.com) by April 1.





## SPRING POTLUCK AND WHITE ELEPHANT TOOL SWAP

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1 - 4 pm at the home of Billie and Sam Childress in West Chicago

This is the first 2014 NIHS get-together for friends, food and fun after a long winter. Billie and Mark Rekoose are planning a surprise or two to keep everyone entertained. You will really want to be there!

The main dish, tableware, and beverages will be provided. Everyone should bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. Be sure to call or email Billie and let her know that you will be coming and what you will bring: 630-231-1791 or [billiedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiedc@sbcglobal.net).

The tool and accessory swap is an NIHS tradition that can be lots of fun if you get into the spirit of "recycling." Here is how to participate:



1. Bring a used garden tool, accessory, yard ornament or any other garden-related item that you want to "re-gift" because you never liked it, no longer need it, or want to get rid of it for whatever reason.
2. Make sure it is wrapped in such a way as to disguise the contents.
3. At the swap, choose from among all the treasures and take home someone else's discard. Maybe you'll learn to love it. If not, wrap it up and bring it next year!

Directions to the Childress home: From the intersection of Routes 59 and 64, go east on Rt. 64 for .3 miles and take the first right onto Woodcrest Drive (note that the name will change to Waynewood). Continue for half a mile to Glen Road. Turn left onto Glen and proceed to the Childress home at the end of the cul-de-sac, 29W385 Glen Road.



## NIHS BUS TOUR 2014—Four Western Michigan Gardens, Saturday, June 21

We are making the first ever NIHS trip to southwestern Michigan, home to some beautiful hosta gardens. We will visit three private gardens and a commercial nursery with a display garden and a selection of over 500 hosta varieties for sale.

We will depart at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, from the Orland Square Mall at 151<sup>st</sup> Street and La-Grange Rd in Orland Park. We will gather at the South parking lot near the outer ring drive and the 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue mall entrance. We will travel by motor coach. No lunch stop is planned so bring your own lunch (no alcohol please). NIHS will provide limited onboard refreshments as well. We will go regardless of the weather so bring rain gear if the weather looks unfavorable. The bus will return to Orland Park by 7:00 p.m.

We are limited to 52 participants so sign up early to ensure a place on the bus.

**Please arrive at the parking lot by 6:45 a.m. as the bus will leave promptly at 7:00.**

**COST: \$40 for NIHS members and members' spouses. \$50 for guests (includes a one-year NIHS membership). \$50 for late entries received after May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**QUESTIONS: Email Mark Rekoske at [ma-rekoske@gmail.com](mailto:ma-rekoske@gmail.com) or call him at (847) 634-1928.**

Review the garden descriptions and reserve your seat now using the registration form on page 5.



K  
Gar-  
dens



### Garden Descriptions

#### Terry and Linda Gage

There is a creek across the street from the Gage's wooded lot where deer and beaver frequent. In a word, their landscape feels peaceful. The trees form natural islands of shade, so ground cover was originally planted. Soon they discovered shade loving plants that brought color and movement to the islands. With their varied leaves and infinite subtle differences they found hostas were the perfect plants. Terry was smitten and the grand hobby of collecting hostas and growing them from seed was born.

Over 600 varieties can be seen along sweeps of lawn around the islands and in a side garden that was formerly home to natural growing wildflowers. Terry's hosta philosophy is "big & streaky", but he has accepted nuance and enjoys mixing in lots of other varieties for what they bring to the landscape.

#### K-Gardens

K-Gardens is a family farm operated by Tim Klamer who has grown and sold hostas for over 20 years at Byron Center Michigan. K Gardens is a Mecca for hosta collectors throughout Southwestern Michigan. We will browse among 500 different hosta varieties that are for sale displayed in six polyhouses and additional shade areas. In addition, the property features about 900 different mature hosta varieties and companion plants in seven display gardens. Bus tour participants will be offered a special discount on the day of our visit.

#### Kay Maitner

The Maitner home sits on an acre of wooded land. The owners have worked to incorporate an Asian flair in their garden. They grow over 500 different varieties of hostas, planted among various conifers, shade trees, understory trees and flowering shrubs.

*Continued next page*

**Garden Descriptions continued**

**Don Rawson**

A total of about 1,500 hostas fill the Rawson garden.

Don gardens on a waterfront lot of four acres in Comstock Park. He is the originator of *H.* ‘Rhino Hide’ and grows thousands of seedlings each year. Everything Don does seems to be on a large scale. In spring, his driveway is lined with over 20,000 daffodils. In addition to filling his garden with hostas, Don collects massive rocks and boulders from the surrounding area and even other States and countries. Collecting and landscaping his property is Don’s obsession. He loves to show off his unique garden to visitors.



*Rawson Garden*

**NIHS Bus Tour to SW Michigan June 21 Order Form**

Pease print this page and mail it with your check

**QUESTIONS:** Email [marekoske@gmail.com](mailto:marekoske@gmail.com) or call Home: 847-634-1928 Cell: 224-622-1171

**Make checks payable to: Northern Illinois Hosta Society**

**Send to: Mark Rekoske, 525 Caren Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089**

Members	\$40 X _____ =	\$ _____
Guest	\$50 X _____ =	\$ _____
Late Entries	\$50 X _____ =	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your email address below. Confirmation of your reservation and the tour schedule will be sent via email.**

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Fees are non-refundable. However, I will create a waiting list to facilitate private transfers if you later find you are unable to attend. No guarantees, but sometimes replacements can be arranged.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Introducing the 2014 NIHS Sponsor Plants

The 2014 version of the Sponsor Plants features two very large plants with interesting characteristics and two medium size plants which are sports of very popular hostas.

Members may purchase one each of the four plants, and it is not necessary to order all four. **Please do not request multiples of**



*June Fever*

any plant. Our order is for 25 of each, so it would be best to get your reservation in early. Use the Order Form on page 7.

Any extra plants may be available at the meeting on Sunday, May 4th, at which all plants must be picked up. The meeting will be held at the Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines at 1pm.

**Brutus** I have grown Brutus for a couple of years and frankly it was not impressive to me as a juvenile plant. But, as it got beyond the juvenile stage, the

plant just screamed out for recognition. I had no choice but to move one into my display beds where it drew a lot of attention at the recent convention. It is large and dark green in color with deep veining and rippled edges. The overall growth habit is upright. I believe that Brutus fully grown will be in the “huge” category. Brutus is a Doug Beilstein seedling introduced in 2007.

**June Fever** Introduced by Jan van den Top from the Netherlands in 2004, June Fever is a sport of June with a distinct yellow center and a green margin. It has good substance. Medium in size.



*Smash Hit*

**Smash Hit** A sport of the very popular Orange Marmalade, Smash Hit features wider green margins and a center that begins the season chartreuse and turns gold as the season advances. Medium to large.

**Sacramento** This is a sport of one of my very favorite large golds, Sutter’s Mill by “Indiana Bob” Balitewicz who recently passed away. I have owned my copy of Sacramento for about four years and have found it to be a worthy display plant with it’s huge leaves and corrugated leaf surfaces. Sacramento is the reverse of California Gold Rush which means that it features rich green centers and gold margins. It was introduced by Mark Zilis in 2010. Large to extra large. Lou Horton



*Brutus*



*Sacramento*

---

**JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT THE  
Sponsor Plant Pick-up and Speaker on May 4, 1 pm**

In his presentation, 'Shady Characters: Made for the Shade' Rich Eyre of Rich's Foxwillow Pines will explore various shade tolerant plants for the landscape. This garden program will emphasize hemlocks, yews, shrubs, and perennials needed for low light settings. Bring a friend! (see Rich Eyre's profile on page 8.)

**Driving Directions:** Your destination is 395 West Algonquin Road in Des Plaines. Friendship Park Conservatory is located on the south side of Algonquin Road (Route 62), one-half mile east of the intersection with Elmhurst Road (Route 83).

Traveling westbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Elmhurst Road and go north .7 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed .5 miles to Friendship Park.

Traveling eastbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Arlington Heights Road and go north .4 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed 3 mile to Friendship Park. From Route 53, exit at Algonquin Road (Route 62) and proceed east 5.5 miles to Friendship Park.

**Sponsor Plant Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Brutus (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Sacramento (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ June fever (\$6.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Smash Hit (\$12.00) \_\_\_\_\_

One of each plant (\$38.00) \_\_\_\_\_

All orders must be accompanied by a check for the full amount made out to NIHS. My address is: 1N735 Ingalton Ave., West Chicago, IL 60185. If you wish confirmation that your order was received, either include your email address or a stamped, self-addressed stamped envelope. The Spring Meeting on May 4th at the Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines is where the plants will be delivered. If you cannot make that meeting, please make arrangements either to have someone else pick the plants for you or make arrangements to pick them up at my home in West Chicago prior to the meeting. My phone number is 630-293- 7735. Plants not claimed will be considered a donation to the NIHS. Lou Horton

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Member Spotlight

In this issue we are spotlighting several members who are making a difference for NIHS.

**Rich Eyre** will be our featured speaker at our May 4th meeting. Rich is a long-time NIHS member and a 42 year conifer collector turned nurse-



ryman. Rich has turned his passion into a thriving business, Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery Inc. Rich feels dwarf trees are plants of the future and he only grows the trees he personally likes. He is particularly fond of Asian

plants and his collection reflects his interest in 100 or more *Pinus parviflora* cultivars. In 1968, Rich found the Brooklyn Botanic Garden gardening series on bonsai and dwarf conifers in his Peace Corps book locker in Bolivia. It was in the Amazon jungle that he dreamed of raising rare conifers.

In 1988, he realized the dream with his wife, Susan when they launched Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery Inc. This nursery is situated in Woodstock Illinois, about 50 miles northwest of Chicago. The site features 50,000 + trees with 3500 cultivars of conifers and unique deciduous plants, plus large collections of hostas, daylilies, iris, alpines and numerous other plant collections. The nursery emphasizes dwarf plant material especially suited for modern downsized spaces. They also sell an amazing number of hostas! The nursery is listed as a 'great find' for Best Conifers in the August 2004 Chicago Magazine "The Best of Chicago 2004" issue.

Rich is also an active member of the American Conifer Society. Rich has been featured on the Victory Garden, HGTV, Great Lakes Gardening television shows plus has been written about in numerous local & national publications. Rich's nursery has two annual sales of hostas where all the proceeds are donated to Heifer International and Mano a Mano International, their favorite charities. Go to: [www.richsfoxwillowpines.com](http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com)

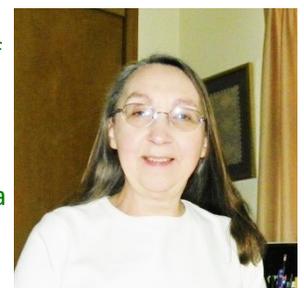
**Marcia Jendreas** is new to NIHS in 2013. Marcia has jumped into NIHS in the role of Publicity Director and she is one of the hosts for our July Hosta Garden Walk. Marcia & her husband Marvin live in Prospect Heights with their 3 tortoise shell cats, an Aussie terrier & a border collie.



She is retired from municipal government and now works part time as a Recording Secretary for several park districts. Marcia loves to garden, spend time with her 3 young grandkids, & volunteers at several civic & welfare organizations, helps at the Chicago Botanic Garden as a Master Gardener, and is president of her local garden club. Marcia loves hostas, especially the giant ones, plus companion hydrangeas and flowering shrubs. Marcia recently attended an NIHS auction with a friend and says she was "hooked."

— — — — —

**Colleen Graudins** is a relative newcomer to NIHS who characterizes herself as a "plant-a-holic". Colleen brings an array of skills to NIHS projects including her role as Director at Large, member of the Website Update committee, and volunteering at the Leaf Show exhibit. Colleen & her husband Ericks live in Mt. Prospect with their smooth fox terrier, Gizmo. Colleen is a retired IT professional and has become a Master Gardener, volunteering at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She especially enjoys getting her hands dirty growing plants in the CBG's production greenhouses. Marcia also is a speaker at area garden clubs.



As a plant-a-holic Colleen loves selected large & mini hostas & admits to being beech (*fagus*) tree obsessed. In the spring she loves the *ligularia*, species tulips, & narcissus blooms, especially since the wildlife ignore them. She documents her plant successes and sometimes losses with digital photos.



June Bus Trip, K-Gardens -above & Rawson garden below



**This year's only sale day is Saturday,  
June 7th. Visit other times by  
appointment. Call me at 630 293 7735.**

**My address is: 1N735 Ingalton Ave.,  
West Chicago, IL 60185**

**Lou Horton**



**Botanical Gardens—Arboretum  
Garden Center**



Princeton, IL

[www.hornbakergardens.com](http://www.hornbakergardens.com)



**Rich's Foxwillow  
Pines Nursery, Inc.**

**Hosta Sale and Bolivian Arts & Crafts Fundraiser  
June 7, 2014 August 23, 2014  
9am—4pm**

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

**Check or Cash only.**

*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  
December 1 - February 28: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday**

**11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098  
phone: 815-338-7442 fax: 815-338-7446  
email: [coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com](mailto:coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com)  
[www.richsfoxwillowpines.com](http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com)**





## Your Growing Concerns Perennial Nursery

We carry over 160 hostas, all from Q & Z Nursery, 55 new hostas this year and 14 new introductions including 'Aladdin's Lamp', 'Epiphany', 'Hypnosis', & 'Tootie May'. We are a full service nursery providing a wide selection of trees, shrubs, shade & sun perennials including 24 Proven Winners hydrangeas. Perennial plant prices start @ \$3.25.

Visit us @ [yourgrowingconcerns.net](http://yourgrowingconcerns.net) or on Facebook. 8N996 Dittman Rd, Campton Hills, IL 847-826-4769

How does your garden grow?

## Contrary Mary's Plants & Designs

We specialize in the unusual!

More than 500 hosta varieties

Dozens of peony varieties

Most available to order online!

Visitors welcome! We're located

35 miles southwest of Chicago.

[www.contrarymarysplants.com](http://www.contrarymarysplants.com)  
(815) 521-9535

## Čzech it Out!

**Vitáme Vás**

*(We welcome you)*

The 2014 AHS Convention is less than a year away. **Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited to be your hosts for this convention. We have been planning and working hard to make your visit to Iowa a positive experience, and the convention a memorial one.

*The convention will feature optional bus tours on Wednesday and Thursday to showcase our local culture and cuisine*

### **The Amana Colonies**

The colonies are a world renowned tourist destination that offers old world German charm.

### **The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library**

This Cedar Rapids Museum celebrates the culture and heritage of thousands of Czech and Slovak immigrants to Linn and Johnson counties.

**Of course, the real reason for attending the convention is for the hostas and gardens.**

The rich black soil of the heartland provides an excellent environment for beautiful gardens accented with the creative flavor of Middle America.

- **We have 10 exciting gardens for you to visit on Friday and Saturday**
- **More optional gardens on Sunday as you return home**

**Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited and proud to be hosting the 2014 AHS convention. We will have the Collins Road Marriott Hotel to ourselves to enhance the experience.

**Come to the convention to...**

- ✓ **See our Hostas!**
- ✓ **Sample our Heritage (be sure to check out yours)**
- ✓ **Experience our Warm Midwestern Hospitality**



Harshbarger Hosta Society President, Judi Pohorsky, and Co-Vice President, Nancy McWherter selling t-shirts at the recent AHS convention in Milwaukee, WI.

Photo courtesy of Jay McWherter

**Come to Cedar Rapids**

**June 11-14, 2014**

**to Čzech it Out!**



## Wish List for Cantigny Display Garden

## Current Hostas @ Cantigny

It is time to begin thinking about adding to the collection that the NIHS is building at Cantigny Park in Winfield, IL. At this point, we are looking to add quality plants which every collection should contain in the form of mature divisions. Here are suggestions for hostas which I have compiled after looking at ones the collection already contains:

**Brother Stefan**  
**St. Paul**

**Orange Marmalade**  
**Sutter's Mill**

**Dorothy Benedict**  
**Golden Meadows**

**Dawn's Early Light**  
**First Frost**

To start things off, I will donate a mature division of Dorothy Benedict. I am hoping that other NIHS members will help out with some of the other plants on this list. In case you are thinking about donating a plant not on this list, I am including a list of plants already in Cantigny's collection. As I would like to give the donated plants the maximum time to establish in their new home, I will ask that the plants reach me no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. I will gladly accept and transport any plants you bring to the meeting in Des Plaines on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Lou Horton



H. 'Dorothy Benedict'



H. 'St. Paul'



H. 'Orange Marmalade'



H. 'Brother Stefan'

<u>Cultivar Name</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Plantaginea	Hood
Blue Jay	King
Pineapple Upside-down Cake	King
Paradigm	Campbell
Regal Splendor	Rekoske
Guacamole	Fulkerson
Krossa Regal	Hood
Wide Brim	Rekoske
Liberty	Horton
Sum & Substance	Horton
Golden Sculpture	Postlewaite
Montana Aureomarginata	Postlewaite
Squash Casserole	Swehla
Gold Standard	Renwick
Eola Sapphire	Renwick
Red October	Adams
S. Elegans	Kraus
Christmas Tree	Kraus
Ventricosa	Slove
Bressingham Blue	Slove
Rainbow's End	King
Blue Angel	Roche
Leola Fraim	unknown
Empress Wu	Swehla
Victory	Horton
Midas Touch	Postlewaite
T Rex	Postlewaite
Emerald Charger	Horton



Visit the Rawson Garden on the June Bus Trip

## **New Member Welcome!**

Marcia & Marvin Jendreas, Prospect Heights

Marie & Larry Johnson, Elgin

Forest & Barby Kay, St. Charles

Pat & Peter Swaufield, Downers Grove

Linda Thompson, Naperville

## **Tips on Growing Plants from Bare Roots**

We know everyone is excited about their club special sale hostas that will be arriving in a couple of months. 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.

Author unknown



Join the NIHS by contacting Mike Kraus, Membership Chairman, 6311 Carrie Ct, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 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](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com)

Call Mike @ 815-356-8569. Visit our website @ [www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org).

Please send membership renewals to Mike at the above address. For mailed copies check the date above your mailing address for your expiration date.

## MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION "HOSTAS BY THE BAY"



The Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeast Wisconsin will be hosting the MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION "HOSTAS BY THE BAY" HERE IN GREEN BAY FROM JUNE 26 - 28, 2014

The schedule of activities will include tours of six fabulous gardens with a drive-yourself format, a cut leaf show, an afternoon tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden with a tailgate evening supper followed by THE HOSTA AUCTION back at the hotel. Vendors are confirmed to be available for the purchase of Hosta plants, conifers and yard art, as well as our raffle table of other garden treasures.

An optional trip to Door County for a fish boil is also in the playbook.

The lineup of seminar speakers includes local and nationally known experts who will bring the latest news about Hostas and their teammate plants.

Contact the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at (920) 494-7300 and be sure to mention **MHRS Convention** to get the special rate of \$99.00 per night, plus tax. You will be assured a room for the festivities. A breakfast buffet each morning is included.

If you would be willing to assist in some of the following activities, we would be most appreciative.

Contact Pat Gwidt, [pathen33@yahoo.com](mailto:pathen33@yahoo.com) or Judy Sytsma, [judysgarden.43@gmail.com](mailto:judysgarden.43@gmail.com).

For further information go to the Green & Gold's website <http://greenandgoldhosta.org/2014-convention.html>

**Come to Green Bay**

**June 26 - 28, 2014 !**



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### New MINI HOSTA GROUP LAUNCHED

An informal group is being formed for mutual information and advice sharing among NIHS members interested in minis and small hostas. “Basically, this will be an email exchange among those of us who enjoy collecting, growing and displaying minis,” explained Jim King and June Vandervest, working together to start up the group. They listed the following as some typical matters on which the group might share.

**Collecting.** One way for persons in the group to acquire new plants is by trading divisions. It would also benefit mini enthusiasts to know reliable sources with reasonable prices. And it might also be helpful to learn, since some minis look alike, which ones may not be worth collecting.

**Guidance.** Some minis are hard to grow, some may be better avoided. Information as to how the ever increasing variety of minis actually perform can be valuable. Minis planted in containers, moreover, have special needs. Also division and root pruning can be tricky. Winter protection for container-grown hostas can require special measures.

**Displaying.** Optimal display for minis calls for ceramic containers. As these are expensive, information sharing concerning affordable sources is important.

Persons wishing to be included in the group should contact Jim King [jtking@niu.edu](mailto:jtking@niu.edu) or June Vandervest [june-vandervest@comcast.net](mailto:june-vandervest@comcast.net).



### I LOVE THOSE MINIS! continued

mula for this very successful topping is a mixture of ground egg shells, ground sea shells, and chicken grit. An occasional sprinkling of Sluggo also helps. In closing I will quote Bob Solberg: “Miniature hostas are cute, little babies that will grow in a thimble. They often run in herds through rock gardens, around ponds, or along the edge of a path. Minis are especially happy in containers, strawberry pots, troughs, or even whiskey barrels. Hundreds can live comfortably along a driveway. Just give them water.”  
*by Joe Haber, Centerport, NY*

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society August 2013

### I LOVE THOSE MINIS!

Gardening on a small piece of property with a steep hillside in my backyard, I must confess that mini and small hostas have become my favorites.

Obviously I’m not alone since the American Hosta

Society decided to conduct a separate popularity poll for minis in addition to their poll of the most popular standard varieties. Also, I have noticed that articles on this subject and photos are appearing in *The Hosta Journal* more frequently in recent editions.

These little guys look great in containers and my favorite containers are troughs. Troughs can be filled with many different plants including dwarf conifers, small succulents and of course, mini hostas.

Making hypertufa troughs is not difficult and can be a good winter pastime as you wait for your hostas to start emerging in the spring. There are several recipes for hypertufa mixtures. The main ingredients are portland cement, peat moss and perlite – all readily available in local home improvement centers. They can be made using molds that are rectangular, round, etc., or even free shaped. Whatever shape you choose, the final product can really dress up a patio.

I grow mini and small hostas in a variety of containers and even have ‘Lemon Lime’ growing in a tree stump. It has been there for eight years. In most of my containers I mix hostas with companions like Ajuga ‘Metallica Crispa’, Tatting Fern (*Athyrium Frizellae*), and even small annuals. Some mini hosta favorites that I grow in our rock garden are; ‘Pandora’s Box’, ‘Surprised By Joy’, ‘Medusa’, ‘Teeny-weeny Bikini’, ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, ‘Green Eyes’, ‘Crepe Soul’, ‘Chickadee’, ‘Kinboten’, and ‘Thumbnail’, to name a few. Like peanuts, you can’t have just one.

Slugs are a bigger problem for small hostas than large ones. My way of combating the “damn slug” is by spreading a topping that forms a barrier. My for-



H. Frosted Mouse Ears

← continued

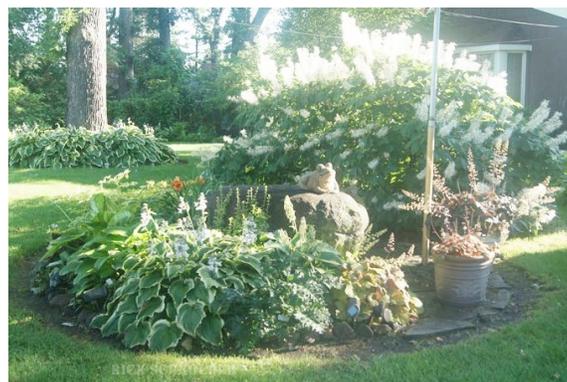
## Hosta Mania: 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Meeting

By Joan Poos, St. Louis Missouri

*Editor's Note: The following article & pictures were originally published in the AHS Online Journal, Fall 2013. Reprinted with permission.*

Mother Nature smiled on Lisle, Illinois, July 12-13 as "Hosta Mania" began. Perfect weather greeted the 150 registrants to the 2013 Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention, held at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle/Naperville.

Hotel accommodations were superb – nice rooms, good food, friendly servers, and plenty of centrally located convention space. Nine vendors occupied a room large enough to display all their wares. Hosta favorites plus ones newly on the market, Japanese maples, and concrete stepping stones, along with hosta-print vests and fairy gardens made their way from the vendor room to nearby car trunks.



**Horton Front Yard**



**Rogers Butterfly Bench**

Oh, what a Ball! On Friday morning, the convention committee had arranged an optional tour of The Gardens at Ball. This was not just row after row of plants, but instead, acres of beautifully landscaped areas, showcasing new varieties of plants. An hour long guided tour provided a glimpse of the many types of seed trials underway. Some areas were dedicated to sunny annuals and perennials, while others displayed colorful shady alternatives. The many types of new coleus caught my eye. A favorite of our tour group was the "living wall." One wall, made of wooly pockets, held shade plants. Another tall frame held vertically positioned trays of sun plants. There was plenty of time after the tour to wander the grounds, taking a longer look at the ornamentals and vegetables we will see in our local nurseries in the coming years. What an inspiring way to start a garden convention!

Ten members opened their gardens to visitors on Friday and Saturday. Each garden had its own identity. Some yards were meticulously groomed, with not a damaged hosta leaf in view. Others promoted a more natural look, with native plants poking their heads amongst the hostas. Large, beautifully grown hostas thrived in abundance. Fairies danced in troughs. The soothing sounds of water greeted conventioners: waterfalls, meandering streams, ponds streaked with the gold of swimming fish, water splashing down a rock tower, and many bubbling fountains. Tall giraffes nibbled at tree leaves; a cheetah

crawled down a dead tree; and black ducks quacked in their pen, while a rooster crowed in the distance. Stands of hydrangeas, ligularia, and golden grasses, patches of sun-loving daisies, and coneflowers, even a butterbur, dotted garden beds and borders. Majestic oaks, walnuts, and hickories provided the high canopy hostas so love. Beautiful tri-color beeches brightened many a landscape. We came for the gardens and were not disappointed.

For the first time, the MRHS convention used a drive-yourself concept, instead of buses, to travel to the various gardens. Conventioners were given annotated maps with driving instructions to each location. Many members used their own GPS systems. Attendees who chose not to drive were matched with others willing to have a passenger or two. The system was a huge success. This method allowed people to visit the gardens in any order and spend as much time in each, as they wished. Since hosts were not overwhelmed with an influx of fifty people at a time, they were able to present their beautiful gardens in a leisurely manner. There was still plenty of time for the camaraderie

*Continued next page*



**Childress Home**



that buses provide during the cocktail hours, dinners, and at hostality. Friday afternoon seminars featured talks by Tom Micheletti and Mary Ann Metz. Tom began with a bit of hosta history, followed by a discussion of different hosta sizes and color variations. He showed how the hosta, with its range of foliage color and texture, can be incorporated into our landscape. Tom then switched to his main topic of hosta maintenance, by giving tips on plant division, fertilizing, diseases, and pest control.

Mary Ann Metz expanded on the theme of landscaping with hostas. She contended that the hosta is a great landscaping plant, which combines the three elements of design: color, form, and texture. Mary Ann discussed these elements in more depth, using hosta pictures to demonstrate her points.

One of the highlights of a hosta convention is the Leaf Show. Row after row of glass bottles held leaves in a vast array of sizes and colors. Along one wall stood themed arrangements using hosta leaves; along another, were container plantings. Viewing these perfect specimens, we appreciate how much work there is to find a leaf with no damage, transport it to the hotel, then clean and prep it for display.

Friday evening's live auction was tense, as bidders vied for that special plant to add to their gardens or breeding programs. Especially coveted was Trudy and Bruce Van Wyk's *Hosta* 'Emperor's Dragon'. The popularity of "steakers" continues, with many unusual donations fetching high bids.

Award presentations highlighted the Saturday night banquet. The DeEtta Montgomery Award for outstanding service to MRHS was presented to a very deserving and much loved member, Carolyn Hamilton. A newcomer on the leaf show scene swept those awards. Among numerous other ribbons, Rita Gindt-Marvig won the coveted Best of Show.

The two days flew by in a flash. It was soon time to bid adieu to old and newly acquired friends. Many thanks to Barbara King, her committee, and the Northern Illinois Hosta Society for a well-run, thoroughly enjoyable event.



*Clockwise from top: Fulkerson Front Falls, Post-lewaite Hosta Garden, Van Ostrand H. 'Wave Runner', Asselborn, H. 'Invincible', King H. 'Rainbow's End', Micheletti H. 'Epiphany', Hood Fountain*





Holiday Party December 2013  
Hosted by Penny & Carl Fulkerson  
Abbondanza!!





Good food, good friends, & lively discussion comprised the afternoon. Snow fell during the entire afternoon, of course!



## Volunteer Opportunities!

**IS THERE A LAWYER OR AN ACCOUNTANT IN THE HOUSE?** That is, in our society? We're looking for someone who can advise the board on a couple of legal and accounting issues without breaking our budget—just an hour or two of your time. How about it? Please call Treasurer Andy Campbell at 847-695-0021 to volunteer.

## **HOST/HOESSE NEEDED FOR NIHS ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**

who can accommodate 30 – 40 members for a potluck meal and short business meeting on a Sunday from 1 – 4 pm. You will get lots of help from our Hospitality Chair June Vandervest and her staff of willing and capable assistants. Call Barbara King at 630-879-2263.

## **DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OF NIHS EVENTS THAT YOU CAN SHARE?**

The new NIHS website is about ready for launch, and we would like to include more good pictures than we have that showcase our events--like the hosta garden walks, the leaf display at Chicago Botanic Garden, the spring meeting at Friendship Park Conservatory, bus trips and the home-hosted potluck meetings. Please let us know if you have some that can be used--send them to Website Committee Chair Mike Kraus at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com).

## **ASSISTANT WEBSITE MANAGERS**

needed to help the NIHS Webmaster with updating the site and adding new information as needed. It's important to have more than one person available who has some website experience and can handle this important responsibility. Contact Mike Kraus at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com).

## MARK ZILIS' NEW BOOK, *FIELD GUIDE TO HOSTAS*, AVAILABLE FROM NIHS AT GROUP PRICE!!!!

The image shows the cover and a sample page of the book "Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas". The cover features a photograph of a hosta plant and the title in a red banner. The sample page shows a grid of hosta photos with descriptive text and a list of features.

**Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas**

- RING BINDING and LIGHT WEIGHT for ease of use and durability
- featuring the 272 MOST SIGNIFICANT HOSTAS with photos
- 2300 MORE HOSTAS listed by category, many with photos
- new views of HOSTA SPECIES

Sample Page (actual page size 7 1/2" x 8 7/8")

**Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas ©2014**  
7 1/2" by 8 7/8", 428 pages, 1200 color photos, laminated soft cover, ring binding  
ISBN # 978-0-9679440-2-9  
\$44.95 each plus shipping  
Quantity Discounts available: 10-19, \$40.45 ea., 20 or more \$35.96 ea. plus shipping

To Order Call Toll Free 1-800-528-2909  
or email: [sales@qandznursery.com](mailto:sales@qandznursery.com)

Mark's latest book is now available, and if at least 20 NIHS members want a copy, we can get a 20% group discount. It's handy, lightweight, and contains a bundle of the latest information on selecting and caring for hostas.

DO NOT ORDER FROM Q & Z! CALL OR EMAIL BARBARA KING BY MARCH 15 at 630-879-2263 or [bhk430@mindspring.com](mailto:bhk430@mindspring.com) to reserve your copy. Each one will be \$35.96 plus tax, and you can pay when it comes. We will pick up the copies at Q & Z to save the shipping charge, then arrange for delivery to those who order—hopefully at the March 23 potluck, just in time for the growing season!

## June 8th Hosta Garden Walk

### *Our first of the season garden visit is at Teddy and Howard Goldman's garden in Northbrook.*

About 20 years ago the Goldman's began replacing lawn with gardens as they were losing the battle to maintain grass under the many ash, elm, and silver maple trees on their half acre lot. Their first attempt to solve the problem of mud was to put down mulch. But the squirrels made a mess of the chips. So they decided to use plants, but their problem was they knew nothing about plants. A friend recommended a nursery in Evanston where they went to learn what to plant and where to plant. After purchasing a variety of shade plants the Goldmans were so afraid of killing the plants they bought that they hired the nursery worker who assisted them at the nursery. She spent time showing them how to site the plants and how to plant them. That was the beginning of the Goldmans' love for gardening and especially their love for hostas.



The Goldmans repeatedly have expanded the garden by cutting into the lawn to make more room for hostas. They have travelled to many nurseries and garden centers throughout Illinois and Wisconsin to find unusual hostas and have also found hostas in mail order catalogs. Teddy says there is always room for one more hosta. The Goldman garden currently has over 1,000 plants and shrubs including 600 hosta plants of 375 varieties! Trial and error, reading, and learning from others who love hostas have helped the Goldmans become more confident gardeners.

2014 will be a year of transition in the Goldman garden, More than ten ash trees, some over 80 feet tall, were lost last year due to damage caused by the emerald ash borer. They quickly planted six different tree varieties to replace the lost trees and hope to recover the shade they once struggled with and abhorred.

**Driving Directions:** The garden is located at 1930 Maplewood Road in Northbrook IL, 60062.

From I-294 take the Lake Cook Road exit. Proceed east on Lake Cook for 2.3 miles and turn right onto Pine Tree Road. Take the first right onto Maplewood. The Goldman garden will be less than one-half block on the right.

## Poison Ivy Surprise

But never in my yard. When you've worked in your own yard for 25 years, there's really little that makes you wonder how it got there. Luckily I was wearing work gloves and in this case the eyes were quicker than the hands. Because there are a lot of Box Elder trees in the vicinity, and their seedlings can easily be confused with poison ivy, I stopped weeding and went to consult my noxious weed handbook. Sure enough, this was the real thing. I came to the conclusion that these little plants were the compliments of some bird foraging on poison ivy berries that just happened to take root in three different places in my yard. The old saying "Leaves of three, let it be" is a good one to remember.

You should know that this plant is poisonous year round. Even in winter when the leaves are absent, the vines, stems, and roots can still cause problems. This plant contains a substance called urushiol which creates a rash on exposed skin. Some dry popular leaves were placed in my photo for better contrast to show the poison ivy leaves. There are several forms of this plant so the leaf shapes may differ. It can appear as a plant or as a vine. Just another reason gardening can be hazardous to your health.



*Poison ivy pictured above the leaves.*

## Running Out of Space? Try Small hostas

Unfortunately, none of us have unlimited space to plant hostas. Even the largest gardens finally begin to fill up. Frequently, however, our ability to maintain the garden limits our need for new hostas long before the space runs out.

Small hostas solve both these gardening dilemmas. Obviously, planting hostas whose ultimate size is two feet wide or smaller reduces the amount of lawn that must be converted to hosta beds each spring. Looking at it another way, selecting small hostas allows you to buy that extra plant or two without worrying where you are going to plant them. You can always find room to tuck another little one in somewhere. Large hostas require more planning.

Large hostas also require more maintenance. Aside from the additional initial bed preparation time and effort, large hostas are just hard to handle. If grown in containers they seem to always be sending new roots out those little holes in the bottom of the pot. Small hostas need not be repotted as often. And thoughts of procrastination begin to creep into our minds when those old giant clumps need dividing. That is, unless there are three strong, young boys down the street or your neighbor has an electric wench on the front of his 4 X 4.

Small hostas are easy to divide. Many do not even require a knife, they just pull apart with your hands and they do not need a crane to lift them out of the hole. Also, frequently they increase faster than large hostas so there are more surplus divisions to pass on to other hosta friends. Dividing small hostas every two or three years also keeps them small. And it keeps them cute.

In the garden I like to see small hostas grouped in areas by themselves, away from their bigger brothers and sisters. Frequently these beds are raised, bringing these smaller plants closer to eye level. I have seen several of these "mini beds" mulched with gravel or small river rocks. The effect is both clean and eye-catching.

We used to see small hostas regularly used as border plants. Long rows of 'Golden Tiara', 'Gold Edger', and 'Kabitan' still fill my mind's eye. As collectors, many hosta growers cannot afford to allot so much space to any one cultivar, But for landscape effect, a border of almost any small hosta will define space as well as carry the eye around the garden.

Remember, small hostas make great container plants too.  
By Bob Solberg,

From Spring 2013 Green & Gold Hosta Society News

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Hosta Garden Calendar

*From "The Green Hill Gossip" by Bob Solberg*

#### Spring (Foliage emergence begins): March-April-early May

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 to 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.

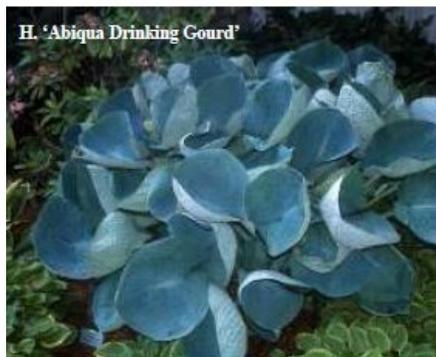
**Pests:** Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be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

Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, lightweight bed sheets or newspaper.

Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

**Propagation:** Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently re-



2014 & 2015 Hostas of the Year, 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' & 'Victory'

duced 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 division 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.

#### Late Spring (Period of rapid foliage and root growth): May-June

Most hostas, except the fragrant flowered ones which produce new flushes of leaves into July, produce all their leaves in about 6-8 weeks. This occurs in usually one or two flushes of 3-4 leaves per shoot, (division). These leaves are at first "soft", expanding rapidly, metabolizing, (growing) at a high rate. As they reach their mature size they "harden off" and stop expanding, slowing their production of white wax and purple pigments, (anthocyanins). At this time fresh new white roots emerge from the shoot above last year's roots and lengthen rapidly. Soon the second flush of 3-4 leaves will appear and mature, followed by another period of root initiation. Hostas need abundant water and nutrients, especially nitrogen, during this period of rapid leaf and root growth.

**Labeling:** Pull labels further out from under the expanding hosta clumps. Notice how much bigger your hostas are than they were last year. Congratulate yourself and give your hostas praise.



**Light:** Shade fills the garden as the trees

Continued next page

## Hosta Garden Calendar

*Continued from previous page*

leaf out. Watch for bleaching of early rising yellow hostas. They may need to be moved.

**Nutrients:** Reapply 10-10-10 after 4-6 weeks depending on the amount of heavy rainfall. Continue your liquid feed program. If you want your hostas to be the biggest on your block, (and who doesn't?), supplement granular fertilizers with a foliar liquid feed of a high nitrogen fertilizer with added magnesium every two weeks (e.g. Miracle-Gro Tomato Plant Food 18-18-21, Peters 20-20-20 with a pinch of Epsom salts per gallon of water added.)

**Pests:** Check hostas for evidence of Hosta Virus X. Unlike foliar nematodes, HVX symptoms will show early in the growing season. Remove and dispose of any infected plants!!! Watch for slug and vole damage. If a hosta does not come up, go digging around looking for it. It may have become vole food, so check the hostas round it for vole damage by pulling gently on the foliage and seeing if they are firmly rooted in the ground. If they too have been nibbled, you may need to pot them up and regrow their roots. Bait or set traps. If a hosta comes up much smaller than last year, it may have become a victim of tree roots and need to be potted also. Remove all the rotted roots and soft parts of the crown and rinse it in a 10% bleach solution before potting. Make a note, rework hosta bed in late summer. Ugh!

**Protection:** Deter deer!

**Propagation:** Do not divide hostas with soft foliage. Once they harden off, you can move entire clumps safely, being careful not to damage the roots. Use a digging fork, not a shovel if you can so you do not cut off the root tips. Wait until late summer to divide drastically.

**Water: Water, Water, Water!** Especially if it is a dry spring. Fill your hostas to the brim with water.

**Fun!** Plant those hostas that you ordered in the winter. Happiness is a new hosta bed! Visit local nurseries and raid the big box stores; hunt for bargains and maybe do a little hosta sport fishing with your hosta buddy. Take pride in your perfect hostas, all fresh and free from holes. Show them off. Visit them daily and choose your favorites.

preme' just went on the chopping block! 'Spilt Milk' appears to be stable, as does my Selfed seedling 'Milkmaid'. Why can't they all be like that? Jan Harvey Reprinted from the **NORTHERN STAR**, newsletter of the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society, Sep. 2013

## My Affair with Allen C. Haskell

I remember the first time I saw him. I was walking with Judy Bygd at Mark Robey's home in 2005. He was a dandy—tall, upright and very beautiful. I fell in love instantly. Little did I know it would become a love-hate relationship!

Allen C. did not remain true to me. His lovely streaked, multicolored leaves continually reverted to a shiny dark green. Although he seemed to like where he lived, many of his divisions were green. I accepted his behavior for too long, failing to confront him about it.

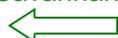
This week, I decided I had enough. I dug him up and now there is not much left of him. I am not optimistic that he will change his behavior. However, I will not wait so long next time to rid the unwanted leaves. Culling is no fun. Galaxy — you are next!!

Reversions in streaked hostas are frequent, according to Grenfell and Shadrack (2004). Such plants are considered unstable. In some hostas no two leaves look the same. In others, the streaking may migrate to the margins or disappear, creating a solid color. "Clumps of streaky-leaved hostas need to be divided every three to five years if this characteristic is to be retained. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to allow the clump to mutate to a centrally or marginally variegated hosta—or even to the original parent." (Grenfell and Shadrack, 2004)

My failure to carefully watch streaked hostas resulted in losing 'Jewel of the Nile', a blue-green marginated, streaked hosta. I now have its parent plant 'Dee's Golden Jewel', a large yellow hosta developed from 'Royal Standard' x 'Galaxy'.

I inadvertently discovered that I have another streaked hosta that has reverted. The Grenfell book depicts 'Winter Snow', a sport of 'Sum and Substance', as a beautifully streaked hosta. However, it reports that it "is unstable in that sometimes there is just marginal variegation while at other times the center of the leaf is wholly misted and streaked." Mine has had marginal variegation since

I purchased it. I love it anyway. I am having some luck growing 'Iron Gate Supreme' in a pot. All new divisions are retaining their streaking so far. 'Savannah Su-



*H. Allen C. Haskell*



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Milorganite As a Deer Chaser?

Milorganite as a deer chaser? We were surprised to learn this fact at the recent AHS convention in Milwaukee. For those of you that were able to attend the convention and visit the beautiful garden of Bill Radler, developer of the Knock Out rose; you saw many hostas placed throughout the garden. We spent about 2 hours in the garden and even toured the area with Bill as he discussed various plantings, how the beds were laid out and some in the group of 6 or 7 even were able to identify some hostas for him.

The home is located near a major stream and a large portion of it floods during storms. This is also a heavily wooded area with deer, one of which walked across in front of us as we drove down the street to



his home. But if you really studied the yard you noted there were a lot of hostas and other plants outside the deer fence. How do they survive?

At the dinner on Saturday night Barb and I were at one of the

front tables with Bill. Someone asked how he kept the deer from eating the hostas. The answer – Milorganite! Everyone said “What?” It seems that about every one to two weeks they broadcast Milorganite on the beds outside the fence and have zero deer damage. In addition to not seeing damage I did note the hostas outside the fence were very large and great color, even some that appeared would be in more sun than shade.

If you have not used Milorganite fertilizer on your garden or lawn you need to check it out. For some 85 years this product from Milwaukee has been used by professionals and gardeners. It does not have to be watered in, does not burn, is slow release over some 8-10 weeks and is safe for children and pets. I mix it with my yard fertilizer when I broadcast each spring. In addition I broadcast Milorganite on our hosta beds at least once or twice a year and add some to pots along with the other fertilizer. Milorganite is organic nitrogen with 4% iron and does contain some



### Get Them Growing in the Spring

I believe that if you ask three hosta people the question about how to get them going in the spring you may get three different answers. Here is a list of what I do each spring in the order I think they should be done:

**Clean up the beds-** doing so helps control slugs by exposing their eggs

**Mulch the beds-** good hardwood mulch

**Spread Deadline before hosta pips start coming up**

- the secret to good slug control is to control them from the start of the season. Lou Horton



*H. Liberty*

phosphorous, but the manufacture notes it will not leach out as occurs with mined phosphorous. It is more available for the plant and will not move into groundwater, lakes or streams. If you have concerns or areas where you think this may happen the decision to use it is yours alone.

Milorganite is available at any of the garden centers here in 50 pound bags. So if you have a deer problem check this out. It may be the best solution to your problem instead of using sprays, hanging soap in the trees in your yard or building the 6-foot tall fence. Rick Schroeder

For more information go to [www.milorganite.com](http://www.milorganite.com).

From the **Illinois Prairie Hosta Society Aug 2013**

## MINUTES OF NIHS BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, January 11, 2014

President Barbara King called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. Others in attendance were Andy Campbell, Penny Fulkerson, Colleen Gaudins, Mike Kraus and Mark Rekoske.

Barbara introduced Colleen, who was attending her first meeting. It was also announced that the sponsor plants for the May meeting are Brutus, Smash Hit, June Fever and Sacramento. Also, sometime in the spring we will need to set up a workday for members at the NIHS hosta garden at Cantigny. Lou Horton will again coordinate this project and will prepare a request for donations of mature plants to go into the next newsletter.

Minutes from the previous board meeting approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Andy Campbell

Currently on hand: Checkbook \$10,726.61; CD \$10,136.14. Total \$20,862.75. The report was approved.

**Financial Issues:** Andy Campbell

Mike Kraus and Ron Asselborn have completed an audit of NIHS financial records for the 12 months ending August 31, 2013. All cash transactions were recorded properly. The treasurer's transaction ledger balance was increased to match the bank balance.

We need to be aggressive to meet the projected number of \$2,000.00 in income from membership fees.

Other issues:

Our bylaws say the NIHS fiscal year should be the calendar year; that adjustment needs to be made.

Need to review how bills are approved for payment.

Andy prefers to pay a bill directly rather than reimburse a member. He should receive original receipts before paying.

Liability insurance needs to be addressed for NIHS. Barbara, Andy and Penny will check with their agents for a policy to cover our exposure for events like hosta garden walks, bus trips, meetings in members' homes, etc.

Andy has taken steps to clarify the society's position with IRS and will report more on this at the next meeting.

The club has a substantial amount of money right now.

Need to investigate some ways to spend. In the past the club has paid for one-year memberships for all members to MRHS. Community service projects should be considered as well as donating more for HV-X and nematode

research.

**Program Planning:**

Mark Rekoske

Spring Meeting:

Rich Eyre from

Rich's Foxwillow

Pines will be the

speaker at the May

4 meeting. The topic will be understory trees.

Hosta Garden Walks: The first will be June 8 in Northbrook. On July 13 there will be 2 gardens in Prospect Heights. The final Hosta Garden Walk is July 27 in Hinsdale.

Bus Trip: This year's trip will be June 21 to southwestern Michigan. There will be 4 stops including a nursery.

Possible future programs suggested: A trip to Q&Z Nursery; participation in National Garden Day in June of 2015.

**Gifts for Garden Hosts:** Mark Rekoske

- Mark will check with Bruce Van Wyck at the Winter Scientific Meeting regarding options he offers that could replace our bricks, plus engraving costs.

- Website Committee Report:** Mike Kraus

- This project was undertaken to update our present site and to upgrade the image of NIHS. The site needs to be professional looking to present us as one of the premier societies in the nation.

- Mike Kraus, chair of the Website Committee that also includes Colleen and Mark, reported on what has been done so far. Options considered: (1) contracting it out with costs that may be \$500.00 to \$5,000 to create plus additional recurring maintenance costs as changes are needed; (2) it could be created by professionals with the maintenance to be done by a member; (3) internal creation and upkeep.

- Consensus of the website committee is to do the entire project internally. There are a number of software packages available to get this done. Mike presented a very professional looking sample on a laptop, using Weebly software. He will continue to add more specific information for users to access.

The goal is to have this completed by March.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02.



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

### Minutes of NIHS Annual Meeting Sunday, September 8, 2013 (DRAFT)

President Barbara King called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm at the home of Mary Ann Brucher. Approximately 35 members of NIHS were in attendance.

Barbara introduced 3 new members.

A summary of the last annual meeting was read. A motion to approve the summary was made by Mark Rekoske and seconded by Connie Hood. The summary was approved.

Mark reviewed the past year's events. He would like input from the membership for speakers at future meetings. He also needs volunteers for next year's hosta garden walks and ideas for destinations the bus trip.



Barbara announced that after an anticipated loss on the MRHS convention held in July, we ended up breaking almost even. She gave a sincere thank you to all the convention chairs and to all the membership who attended.

Kristine James, outgoing membership chairman, sent a report for the year that we have 180 member families which includes 17 new members. Kristine designed our new membership brochure during the past year with a more updated look.

Barbara addressed communication issues. Members present indicated they have no objection, and would even welcome, having e-mail addresses added to the Membership Handbook to be published next spring. A notation in the booklet will ask that any changes to e-mail addresses or other information be communicated to the membership chairman in a timely manner. It will also be stated that e-mail addresses will be used only for communication within NIHS.

Next year's calendar, which is still incomplete, was pre-

sented to the membership. Dates for hosta garden walks and the bus trip are yet to be added, and a volunteer host is needed for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Two major projects that need to be addressed during 2014-2015 are updating the web site and redoing the by-laws. Barbara asked for volunteers to assist on both projects.

Barbara noted that Lou Horton hopes the NIHS Cantigny hosta garden will eventually be worthy of consideration as a display garden for the AHS. This garden was started in 2012 with donations from NIHS members. A list of which hostas are currently displayed will be prepared so that we can accept more non-duplicative member donations in the spring of 2014.

Dennis Hood presented the treasurer's report. Balance on hand is \$20,873.59. His detailed report showed 2012 and 2013 income and expenditures, which he explained in detail. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report passed. Also approved was the proposed budget, after careful explanation by Dennis, with a motion from Mary Ann Brucher and seconded by Jim King. In his concluding remarks as treasurer, Dennis urged the Society to pay careful attention to membership issues as it moves forward. He stressed the importance of "getting the word out" about the Society and its activities, and expanding our membership.

Nominating Committee Chair Vicki Eaton, whose committee members were John Van Ostrand and Billie Childress, presented the following slate of NIHS officers for the next 2 years:

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

Barbara asked for additional nominations. There were none. A motion was made by JoAnn Icenogle and seconded by Grace Morris to approve the slate of officers. The new officers were elected.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

NIHS Membership Secretary

6311 Carrie Ct

Crystal Lake, IL 60014



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.



Maitner Garden on June Bus Trip



## Officers & Directors

### President

Barbara King  
630-879-2263  
bhk430@att.net

### Vice President for Program

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

### Treasurer

Andy Campbell  
847-695-0021  
aaafcambell@hotmail.com

### Membership Secretary

Mike Kraus  
815-356-8569  
NI.hosta@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Publicity Director

Marcia Jendreas  
847-537-4764  
mandmj@sbcglobal.net

### Directors –At–Large

Colleen Gaudins  
847-520-5607  
hrscolleen@aol.com

Dennis Hood  
847-742-6765  
dlcdhood@comcast.net

*To experience the Maitner garden, below & above, sign up for the June 21 Bus Trip to southwest Michigan.*

