

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 85

MAY 2014

## 2014 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **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 Gaudins', 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

Spring seems to have found it's way here, which some of us must have wondered if it ever would. I suppose temperatures could be a little warmer, but heat will be here soon enough. So far it appears that almost everything in our garden survived the horrid winter except for the three evergreens we planted late last fall and a chamaecyparis that must not have been protected enough even though it has been in place for several years. No hosta losses that we can identify as yet. A surprise is that nearly all our heucheras seem to have made it; we're used to losing a few each winter despite the extensive protections we provide them.

NIHS launched its year with a terrific Potluck and Garden Accessory Swap at Billie Childress' home on the bright and beautiful afternoon of March 23. Billie, Nickie Horton and June Vander-vest had everything so well organized that the 30 of us who attended had only to help ourselves to the great food supplied by members, sit down at the beautifully set tables, and enjoy the occasion. After the meal, Billie and Mark Rekoske "emceed" a word game to test our knowledge of hostas. Everyone passed with flying colors; of course, having Lou Horton and Tom Micheletti present to coach us was a big help. Eventually they had to be silenced so that the rest of us could try to figure out the clues. Several people brought crazy items for the swap; *continued on page 2*



## In this Issue:

June Bus Trip	2
Leaf Show	3
Grow Cantigny Garden	4
June Hosta Walk	5
Advertisers	6 & 7
New Members / Markers	8
AHS Convention	9
July 13 Hosta Walks	10
Upcoming Events	11
July 27 Hosta Walk	12
MRHS Convention	13
Spring PotLuck	14
NIHS Website	15
Sponsor Plant Meeting	16
Garden Calendar	17
Clever Creatures	18
Slugs...predators	19

## President's Letter *continued*

the sinister looking thing on a long pole brought by Ron Karlic and Dale Barz generated particular interest. Many thanks to everyone who came with energy and spirit, as well as delicious food, to make this a successful 2014 kickoff event. Special thanks to Billie Childress for opening her beautiful home to us.

The May 4 NIHS Spring Symposium and sponsor plant pickup at Friendship Park in Mount Prospect was well attended by members eager to enhance their gardens with new plants and new ideas. Every single hosta was gone by the end of the event. Featured speaker Rich Eyre, owner (with his wife Susan) of Rich's Foxwillow Pines in Woodstock, discussed a number of "shady characters:" gorgeous conifers—hemlocks, spruces, yews, pines—as well as deciduous trees that grow well in shade. The photos Rich presented demonstrate that hostas look great and grow well under and around them. After the presentation, NIHS member Karen Trock was the winner of a drawing for a small hemlock supplied by the Eyres. Thanks to Lou Horton for selecting, obtaining and distributing the sponsor plants; to Mark Rekoske for planning the day's program; and to June Vandervest for refreshments.

Coming up: Our next event is the annual NIHS Hosta Leaf Display and Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1. To make it successful, we need lots of members to supply lots of leaves from their best looking hostas. Look inside this newsletter to see what you can do to help us insure a successful display. The first Hosta Garden Walk of the year will be a week later, June 8, at the home of Teddy and Howard Goldman in Northbrook. June is such a busy month that I'm not going to describe every event—two conventions and our bus trip in addition to the garden walk—so be sure to check out the rest of this newsletter.

Here's are some questions for you: How are we doing? Are you satisfied with our schedule and activities as they are, or should we be considering other activities or events? Should there be more or fewer activities on the calendar? What should we add or cut? What do you think is the best way to attract additional members? Should we continue to have social events in members' homes, or should we have them in restaurants, parks, or other venues? Don't hold back. Anything goes—comments, ideas, suggestions are all welcome.

The NIHS Board would really appreciate your feedback. This is, after all, your society. The board works hard, but we don't pretend to have all the answers. So let us hear from you! Barbara



**NIHS BUS TOUR 2014**  
**Four SW Michigan**  
**Gardens,**  
**Saturday June 21**  
**Seats Are Available**  
**Call Mark Rekoske**  
**(847) 634-1928**

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 LaGrange 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.

**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).**

## Experience the Hosta Leaf Display & Seminar

May 31 & June 1, 10 till 4, Chicago Botanic Garden

### Back Again - INFORMAL WORKSHOP BOTH DAYS

Times will be posted on site

“Everything You Need to Know About Growing Hostas”

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

Plus Hosta Vendor Sales by Jim Morrow and Tom Micheletti

Vote for your favorite hosta Leaf

2013 Hosta Leaf Display & Seminar



## Show Us Your Hosta Leaves!

Our 2014 display of hosta leaves at the Chicago Botanic Garden will take place May 31 and June 1. To make it a success, we need lots of leaves from members' gardens to exhibit as shown in the photo below from a past show. This event gives us great exposure to the public—several hundred people visiting CBG come through our display to learn about hostas, vote for their favorites and purchase plants from our vendors.

Here's how it works: To prepare a leaf to be included in the display, cut it cleanly from the plant within 24 hours of the beginning of the display. Leave the petiole long enough to put in the vase as shown. Write the name of the hosta on the petiole with something like a waterproof Sharpie Ultra Fine Point felt tip pen, or label the leaf in some other way that cannot be separated from it. Thoroughly wash any dirt or debris

from the leaf and put it in cool water to keep it fresh. Repeat the process for as many hostas as you wish to bring to the display.

NIHS members will be present on Friday, May 30—our setup day—between 10 am and 1 pm, and Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10 am to accept your leaf donations. If you cannot get there during those hours, call or email Barbara King (630-879-2263; bhk430@mindspring.com), and we will make arrangements to get your leaves to the CBG.

To help with set up on Friday or at the exhibit between 10 am and 4 pm Saturday or Sunday, call or email Nancy Bodinet (847-550-0897; Bodinet@sbcglobal.net). Or just stop by during the hours the display is open. NIHS members are welcome and encouraged to come.

## Plans to Grow Cantigny Hosta Garden

Barbara King reported at the May 4 meeting that NIHS will be working to establish an **American Hosta Society National Display Garden at Cantigny Park** near Wheaton. Lou Horton



H. 'Orange marmalade'

has been leading our effort to gather hostas at Cantigny for several years. Lou stated that Cantigny officials are pleased that NIHS has made a "significant commitment to expanding and improving the hosta garden".

The NIHS Board recognizes that other dynamic hosta societies have established public hosta gardens and we wish to take on this opportunity to expand the public's



H. 'Brother Stefan'

knowledge and appreciation of hostas and their use in the landscape.

The NIHS will 'kick start' our efforts by purchasing up to \$1,000 of mature hosta plants in addition to donations from members. . Donations

from vendors would be welcome as well. For donations we are looking for mature divisions - at least 8 eyes. Here are Lou Horton's suggestions for this year's member donations:

**Brother Stefan**

**St. Paul**

**Dorothy Benedict**

**Golden Meadows**

**Orange Marmalade**

**Sutter's Mill**

**Dawn's Early Light**

**First Frost**

The AHS intends for the National Display Garden program to encourage local societies to support

public gardens. AHS has established criteria to assure a high quality in its official display gardens.

The AHS criteria for a National Display Garden include:

- an educational mission,
- a significantly large and appropriately labeled collection
- a commitment to maintain the garden.



H. 'St. Paul'

More details on how you can contribute to this exciting project will follow in future newsletters.



Visit the Goldman Garden on Sunday June 8



## Don't Miss the June 8th Hosta Garden Walk

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

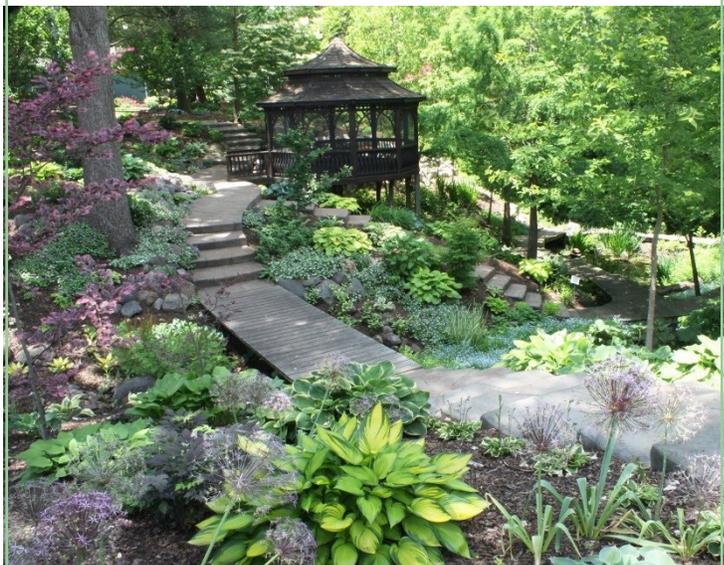
**Driving Directions:** The garden is located at 1930 Maplewood Road in Northbrook IL, 60062.

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.



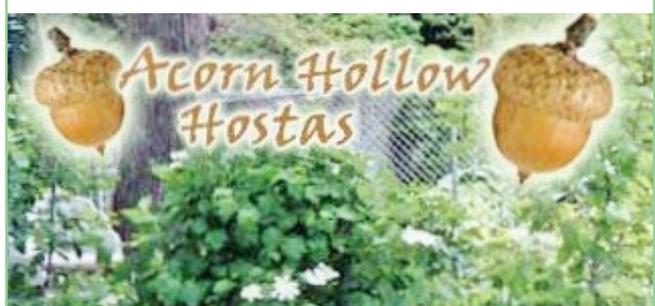


Botanical Gardens—Arboretum  
Garden Center



Princeton, IL

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



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



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

## PLANT MARKERS AVAILABLE TO NIHS MEMBERS



Board member Colleen Graudins will arrange a group order for NIHS members of 15-inch, "P" style plant markers offered by Kincaid Gardens, which will give a small discount to members who order and a rebate to the Society. The markers are strong, substantial stainless steel and can be viewed at [www.kincaidgardens.com](http://www.kincaidgardens.com). They come in bundles of 25. The more bundles ordered, the lower the cost of each one.

Contact Colleen at 847-520-5607 or [hrscolleen@aol.com](mailto:hrscolleen@aol.com) for more information and to order.

Last year Gary Kincaid kindly donated 150 markers to NIHS for inclusion in our MRHS convention welcome packs.

Editor's Note: These are the best markers we have used because they are strong and don't break or bend.

## Volunteer Opportunities!

**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).

**AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS** wanted to take photos at NIHS events. Any type of digital camera will work for our needs. We wish to document and publish these photos in the Hosta Happenings newsletter and on the website. We have one volunteer and need another person to cover several events. Contact Ron Asselborn at: [rasselborn@fvi.net](mailto:rasselborn@fvi.net) or 630-587-1341.

## New Member Welcome!

Mary C. Avallon-Zelasko , Chicago

Beth Brace, LaGrange

Rolle & Jeffrey Burgeson, Downers Grove

Kerry Perry, West Chicago



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 per year.

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.

## ❧ 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!**



## July 13 Hosta Garden Walks Preview

Our second Hosta Garden Walk of the season is a **twofer** at Prospect Heights. Friends, neighbors and NIHS members describe Marcia Jendreas and Colleen Graudians who will open their gardens on Sunday, July 13. Both gardeners include hostas as one expanding element in their lovely gardens.

Marcia started her garden 34 years ago surrounded by honeysuckle bushes and four Peony plants. Her goal was to get rid of the honeysuckles since she didn't like a lot of flowering plants. She sought a lot of texture and



*Marcia Jendreas' texture gardens above and left.*



different shades of greens and yellows. She finds gardening is a lot of fun, a stress reliever, and a way of life. The garden now has eight different garden "rooms" which include shade, sun, native plants, and ponds. Giant hostas are among Marcia's favorites and she grows over 30 varieties of hostas. Empress Wu is just starting to come into its own.

Something is always blooming in Marcia's gardens from spring to fall. The waterfall in the pond creates a relaxing atmosphere on the patio. The koi and goldfish are entertaining, especially during spawning sea-

son. Marcia's grandchildren have a great time following all the paths that lead to bridges, dry rock beds, and ponds.

Our next garden is Colleen Graudians' labor of love. As a Master Gardener who volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden's plant propagation unit, Colleen cannot resist the many new and different plants she encounters each season. What was once a

*Colleen Graudians' sunny bed.*



*Continued on page 11*

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**July 13 Hosta Garden Walks****Preview** *continued*

garden composed of ditch daylilies and a few variegated hostas has become Colleen's eclectic mix of plants reflecting her interest in the unusual. The half-acre site includes both sun and shade planting beds. Many native plants are included. Touches of whimsy are found throughout the garden including a collection of rabbit figurines. Colleen is a lover of bunnies, despite the damage they may cause. What was once an unused in-ground pool has been converted into a large planter that serves as the central showpiece for the patio.

*Driving Directions: The gardens are located west of Highway 83 and north of Palatine Rd. in Prospect Heights. From Highway 83 turn west onto Stonegate Dr., about 0.25 mi north of Palatine Rd. The first intersection is Wildwood Dr. Turn left one block to Marcia's garden at 31 S. Wildwood on the left. Or, turn right and proceed less than one*



Visit Colleen Graudins' distinctive garden on July 13.

*block on Wildwood Dr. to Colleen's garden at 904 E. Wildwood on the left. The gardens are less than two blocks apart. If you travel on the Edens Expressway, I-294, or Highway 53, exit at Palatine Rd to travel to the interchange with Highway 83.*

**Upcoming Garden Events****"Hostas on the Small Side" by Tom Micheletti**

**June 5th at 7:00 pm**

**American Legion Post 80**

**4000 Saratoga Avenue**

**Downers Grove, IL**

**The Garden Club of Downers Grove** and the Downers Grove Public Library are



partnering in a program to celebrate National Garden Week. Tom Micheletti will talk about miniature and small Hostas, their characteristics, cultural needs and how they can be utilized in any size garden. Hosta plants will be available for sale and refreshments will be served. The program is free to the public, but reservations are required. Call the library 630- 960-1200 or make a reservation on line at [www.dglibrary.org/events](http://www.dglibrary.org/events).

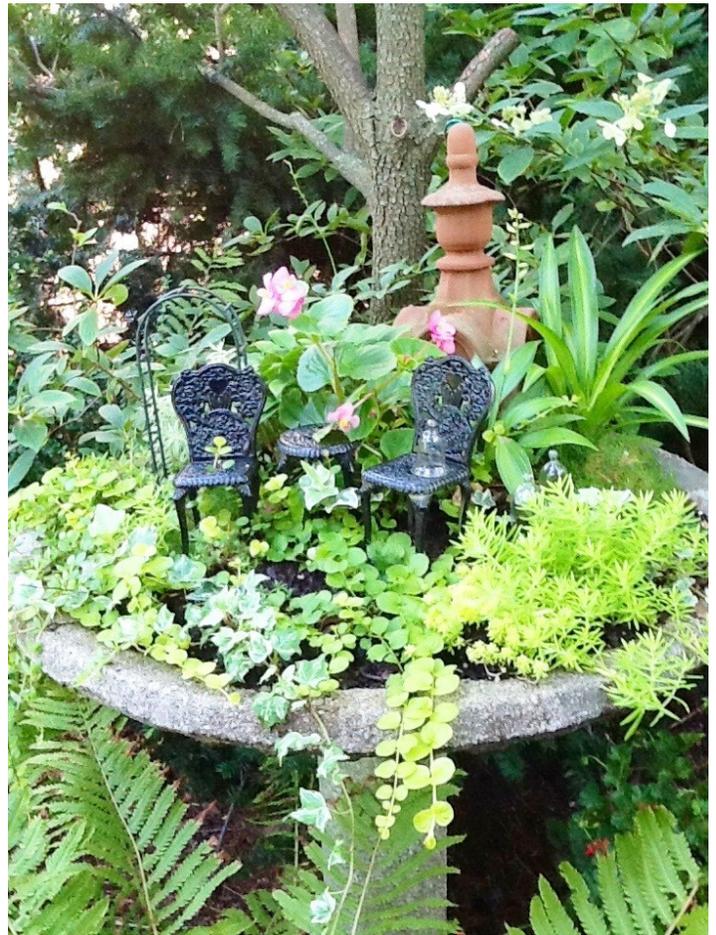
Note From The Editor: This "Upcoming Garden Events" column is a new addition to the newsletter. We encourage you to submit information and pictures about garden events and programs that are open to the public. We are especially interested in events and programs *involving our NIHS members*. Submit your garden event information to Ron Asselborn, email: [rasselborn@fvi.net](mailto:rasselborn@fvi.net). Our next newsletter will be published about June 30. **The submission deadline is June 15.**

## July 27 Hosta Garden Walk Preview in Hinsdale

Our final Hosta Garden Walk of the season will be at the Hinsdale home of Tanner Musso on July 27. The house is from the 1880s and the garden has evolved through the years.

The garden reflects the eclectic interests of its owner. There are many features including a pond, fountains, antique planters, benches, ornamental stone from old buildings, etc. Of course there are many hosta. There are walkways, box-wood squares and walls.

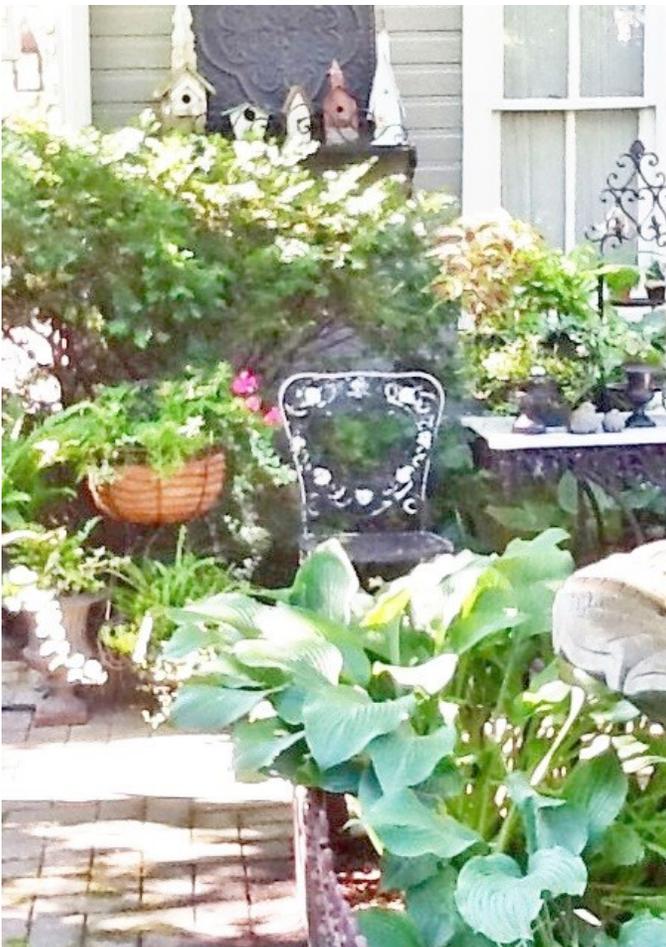
Tanner spends winters searching for and making



*Artistry defines Tanner Musso's garden.*

interesting garden accessories. She finds gardening is a never ending process; she frequently adds or edits features.

The Musso garden has been featured in many garden walks and has been the site of numerous charitable events over the years. Later this year Tanner will host the Nature Artists Guild for a day of painting and creating in her inspiring garden. Mark your calendar to visit on July 27.



## 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 !**



**Midwest Region Hosta Society**

Visit: [www.midwesthostasociety.org/](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/)





## SPRING POTLUCK AND WHITE ELEPHANT TOOL SWAP

### A Fun Time!

Many thanks to Billie Childress for hosting this much needed Spring pick-me-up.



## New Website

Below is the initial view visitors will see when they visit our new and improved NIHS website at <http://nihosta.weebly.com/>. Just Google "Northern Illinois Hosta" and you will go right to our site. Mike Kraus and his development team are looking for feedback regarding your use of the site Contact Mike at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society website. The header features a logo of a hosta plant on the left and the title "Northern Illinois Hosta Society" in a large, orange font. Below the title is a green navigation bar with white text links: HOME, ABOUT US, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP, RESOURCES, GALLERY, and CONTACT US. The main content area is framed by a white border and contains a large photograph of various hosta plants in a garden. Below the photo, the word "HOME" is underlined in green. The main heading is "Welcome to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society" in a green font. The text below reads: "We are a group of people connected by our love of hostas, the most versatile and popular perennial plant in the country. Our members enjoy sharing their hosta knowledge and experience, and we invite you to explore our site and use the resources provided here." This is followed by another paragraph: "Whether you are an NIHS member, a visitor or a budding hostamaniac feeding a passion, you've come to the right place. You will find a lot of useful information here." A third paragraph states: "Our members come primarily from the Chicago metropolitan area, but hosta lovers from anywhere are welcome. If you are not presently an NIHS member, we encourage you to consider what we have to offer." At the bottom left of the content area is a green button with the text "Join Today". To the right of the text is a photograph of a large, healthy hosta plant with variegated green and yellow leaves and a single white flower.

**FRIENDSHIP & FESTIVITIES AT THE Sponsor  
Plant Pick-up and Speaker Meeting on May 4**



Rich Eyre of Rich's Foxwillow Pines (right) wowed the 60 attendees with his 'Shady Characters: Made for the Shade'. Prior to Rich's program members renewed acquaintances and happily gathered up their newly acquired hostas.



## Hosta Garden Calendar



### 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 produce- 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 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. MiracleGro 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, that hosta bed may need reworking in late summer. Ugh!

**Protection:** Deter deer!

**Propagation:** Do not divide hostas with soft foliage. Once they hardens 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.

*From “The Green Hill Gossip” by Bob Solberg*

## Clever Creature Solution

We like to feed the birds. Watching the quick flight of the titmouse, the wariness of the chickadees as they watch for the hawk, the flashes of color of gold-finches, cardinals and the occasional visitor we have to look up in the bird book, brings us a lot of pleasure.

However, that delicious birdseed is s-o-o-o tempting to the chipmunks and the squirrels. The chipmunk can fill up his cheeks so fast and clean out the feeder in nothing flat. Baffles and greased poles just provide an interesting challenge to our ravenous friends.

To the rescue has come an idea that we found in the garden of one of the hosts at the Great Lakes Region Tailgate party this year, a simple slinky on the pole!



We tried this on two of our shepherd hook poles and it works.

When we first put them on, we were entertained for quite a time as squirrels and chipmunks would try to climb and the slinky would spring up and down. The squirrels tried different attacks, jumping sideways and trying to grab the pole, but eventually the slinky won. The birds occasionally land on a slinky coil and bounce as if on a trampoline, (more entertainment) but they are not deterred by the action.

As you can see above, we did have to tie the slinky (metal) on at a couple of points to keep it from fully spreading, but our seed has been safe.

By the way, the cage did not keep the chipmunk or the squirrel out by itself...nor does it keep the deer away!

by Cindy Hughes

*Reprinted from the North Coast Hosta Society of Ohio newsletter, Sept 2013*



Tufted Titmouse

## Slugs...what eats those slimy gastropods?

We are having some wet weather and the slugs are very happy and active. Slugs are gastropod mollusks. Biologically slugs are somewhat interesting organisms. For example, their use of muscular contractions for locomotion, and they are hermaphrodites. Basically, each individual slug has male and female reproductive parts. Two individual slugs exchange sperm and both produce eggs. Slugs are not usually thought of fondly by many... first because they eat and damage plants, followed by the fact that they produce slimy mucus – which is somewhat disgusting. When controlling slugs, the use of baits is the more common tactic. However, it is important to know that other organisms eat slugs and provide some level of biological control. For example, some frogs, toads, snakes, hedgehogs, salamanders, turtles, rats, and birds consume slugs. Some slugs are carnivorous and



are predators of other slugs and snails. Carnivorous slugs will follow the slime

trail of another slug as part of its hunting strategy. Beneficial nematodes, such as *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita*, are commercially available (may not be available yet in the U.S.) and target several common slug species.

Juvenile stages of the nematodes actively search for slugs. Nematodes enter the slug through the breathing pore in the slug's mantle. Nematodes release bacteria into the slug which stop the slug from feeding and eventually kill it, and the nematodes feed on the bacteria. This is a nice mutualistic relationship that benefits everyone but the slug. There are a few entomologists conducting research on nematodes as biological controls for slugs. Hopefully, in the near future using nematodes will be viable control option. There are



flies known as marsh flies whose larvae are active in soil and are predators or parasites of snails, snail eggs, and slugs.

The larvae of some species of ground beetles and rove beetles are carnivorous and actively hunt slugs, worms and other insects. These beetles are frequently found under logs or stones, in soil, and other habitats that also favor slugs. **Lady beetles** have also been seen feeding on slugs. Encouragement of these predators by providing habitat, combined with other tools such as sanitation, handpicking (yuck), traps, barriers, and baits, will help in the battle against these little slimers.

By Paula Shrewsbury

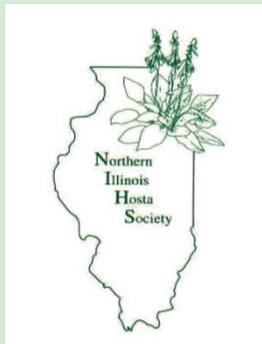
*This information is from the University of Maryland Extension's June 14th, 2013, weekly report reprinted from Great Expectations published by the Central Illinois Hosta Society March 2014.*



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.



See the gorgeous Goldman garden June 8 on the Hosta Garden Walk.



## 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  
andycamp@flash.net

### 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, sign up for the June 21 Bus Trip to southwest Michigan.*

