



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 88

MARCH 2015

2015 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 22 Spring Potluck and Accessory Swap at Jan Smith's Windsor Park residence in Carol Stream**
- **Apr 26 Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup at Cantigny Park, Wheaton**
- **May 30 & 31, 10-4:30 pm, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**
- **June 13, 7 am - 7 pm, Bus Tour to gardens in Northwest Indiana**
- **June 18 - 20, 2015 American Hosta Society Convention, Raleigh, NC, hosted by Bob & Nancy Solberg**
- **June 28 Hosta Garden Walk at Cappy Johnston's in Lake Forest**
- **July 9-11, Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention, Dubuque, IA**
- **July 19 Hosta Garden Walk at King home in Batavia**
- **Aug 2 Hosta Garden Walk TBA**
- **August 9, 1-5 pm, Hosta & Companion Plant Auction, Hinsdale Community House**
- **Sept 13, 1-4 pm, Hosta Potluck, Annual Mtg, & Swap Loc TBA**
- **Dec 6 Holiday Party Loc TBA**

President's Letter

During my ten-day stay in northern California, where I was enjoying temperatures in the 70s a week ago, I was thinking SPRING. Returning to Chicago the night of a record 8 below was a bit of a slap in the face, but it didn't shake the thoughts of SPRING from my head. Images of California's blooming flowers, cherry trees and magnolias are still vivid.

One thing I never saw there, though, was a hosta. When I chatted over breakfast with a woman from Los Angeles, I mentioned that I grow hostas. She said, "What's a hosta?" I explained that our favorite plants need a period of dormancy that they don't get in most of California. They may not need 8 below, but they can survive it and look gorgeous the following summer. We hosta folks count on that, and it helps us through the winter.

Looking forward, then, to our spring and summer, we have lots going on. Our first meeting of the year is only about 3 weeks away--the Spring Potluck and White Elephant Swap at the Smiths in Carol Stream on March 22. An important feature of this event will be a short business meeting to approve the Society's proposed new bylaws, which all members received last week. More details of that meeting are in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter you will see several items about Cantigny and may wonder, "Is Cantigny taking over the" *continued*



In this Issue:

New Members	2
Spring Potluck	3
NW Indiana Bus Trip	4
Sponsor Plants	6
Spring Symposium	7
Vendor Ads	8 & 9
Volunteer @ Cantigny	10
Hosta Garden Walk	11
Hosta Fact Sheet	12
December Holiday Party	14
MRHS 2015 Convention	16
Hardy Cyclamen	17
AHS 2015 Convention	18
Yellow Hostas	19
Who was Florence Shaw?	21
Controlling Slugs	23
Annual Mtg Minutes	24
Hosta Sex	27

President's Letter *continued*

Northern IL Hosta Society?" No, it isn't, but we have formed an effective working relationship with the staff there to achieve a common goal: Creation of an American Hosta Society National Hosta Display Garden. We need your help and support to do it. That's why we have information here about training sessions, work sessions, and a meeting on April 26 that will give everyone who comes an overview of the whole project. Please come to that meeting and share your thoughts about what more we should be doing to make this garden successful-- landscape ideas, plant ideas, or any ideas that you might have. We believe members will want to be part of this project, which is one of the biggest that NIHS has ever undertaken. If you would like to know more about AHS display gardens, go to americanhostasociety.org, click on Community, then Display Gardens. Receiving that designation takes some time, so it will probably be a couple more years of planning and work. With your help, I know we can do it.

The 2015 Hosta Leaf Display at the Chicago Botanic Garden will be May 30 and 31. As in the past, we will be asking you for single leaves from some of your best specimens to include in the display, so keep that in mind as you evaluate your plants early in the season.

VP/Programs Mark Rekoske is putting the finishing touches on plans for this summer's bus trip and our summer hosta garden walks. He has spent a good bit of the winter on the phone talking to potential hosts so he can finalize the schedule and all the details that go with it.

Finally, sincere thanks to Faith and Andy Campbell for hosting a wonderful NIHS Holiday Party at their Elgin home last December. They are exceptionally gracious hosts, and they did a super job of organizing the party. They even had their charming teenage granddaughters Courtney & Kayla there to help with greetings, coats, and everything else. Everyone had a great time.

I look forward to seeing you at the March 22 meeting, and throughout the summer.

Barbara

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to this large group of new hostaphiles!

Susan Bartholomae, Barrington

Carol Bushnell, Elgin

Angela Cameron, St. Charles

Susan Darnall, Chicago

Cheryl Gaddis, Crystal Lake

Mary Garvey, Hoffman Estates

Tony Kwiatowski, Roselle

Stacy Logan,
Kildeer

Sandhya
Matthews,
Schaumburg

Jan McFar-
land, La
Grange

Usha Murarka,
S. Barrington

Timothy Rainey, St. Charles

Sukanya Reddy, S. Barrington

Jackie & Ken Sanderson, Elgin

Janet Stauffer, La Grange

Marion Stencel, Schaumburg

Esther Stock, Wheaton

Rebecca Strader, St. Charles

Elsie Strzelecki, Downers Grove





SPRING POTLUCK AND WHITE ELEPHANT TOOL SWAP

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1:00 pm with Hosts: Jan and Earl Smith

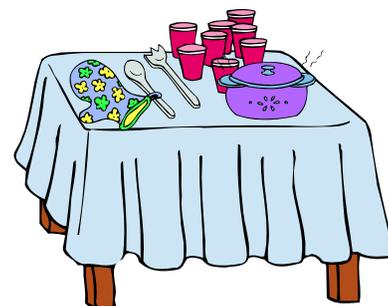
EVERYONE is invited to come to this first NIHS meeting of the year for the fellowship of visiting with old friends, food from excellent NIHS cooks, & fun of the swap

The main dish, tableware, and beverages will be provided. Everyone should bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. **Be sure to contact Hospitality Chair June Vandervest at 630-852-2940 or junevandervest@comcast.net to let her know you will be coming and what you will bring.**

There will be a brief business meeting, after lunch and before the swap, to act on the Society's proposed new bylaws. Everyone will have received this document to review in advance. There will be an opportunity for questions and comments, after which members will be asked to vote yes or no on accepting them.

The tool and accessory swap is an NIHS tradition that can be lots of fun if you get in the spirit. Only those who bring a used item can participate—please **DO NOT** buy something new! Here is what to do:

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, can't use it, or no longer want it for whatever reason.
2. Add to the fun by wrapping it in a way that disguises what it is.
3. At the swap, choose from among all these treasures.
4. If it turns out you don't like it, bring it back next year!



HOW TO GET THERE: Windsor Park is located on Route 64 in Carol Stream, about 3.4 miles east of Route 59 (just past Kuhn Road) and 3.8 miles west of Route I-355 (just past Gary Avenue). It is a large, well-marked complex on the south side of Route 64. Turn south at the main entrance onto Windsor Park Drive. Proceed to the stop sign (where you will see the main entrance ahead of you), then turn right and continue to the visitor's parking lot. Should it be full, park along Windsor Park Drive. Go to the main entrance, and once inside, go to the right to the Patio Dining Room, where we will meet.

NIHS BUS TOUR 2015— Seven Gardens & Growers near Lowell Indiana, Saturday, June 13

We will return to Northwest Indiana for a day of touring more beautiful hosta gardens. We will make a total of seven stops including four private gardens and three sellers of hostas and other garden plants. Sunrise Greenhouse alone lists hundreds of hostas for sale in greenhouse grown containers.

We will depart at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, from Woodridge. We will gather at the former Dominick's parking lot on the south side of 63rd Street just east of I-355. A Target store is adjacent. Please park well away from the buildings. We will travel by motor coach. No lunch stop is planned so plan to bring your own lunch (no alcohol please). NIHS will provide limited on board refreshments as well. We will go regardless of the weather so bring rain gear if the weather looks unfavorable.

We are limited to 52 participants so please 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). The cost will increase to \$50 for late entries received after April 27th.

Review the garden descriptions and reserve your seat now using the registration form following.

QUESTIONS: Email Mark Rekoske at ma-rekoske@gmail.com or call him at 224-622-1171.

Garden Descriptions

Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse is family owned and operated. Three generations of family members work in seven acres of greenhouses. Sunrise boasts of their extensive list of hostas at very competitive prices. The greenhouses include a myriad of unusual annuals, perennials, fragrant herbs, and hanging baskets. Woody plants are offered for sale outside as well. <http://www.woldhuisfarms.com>

Mary Bardens has served the Northwest Indiana and Great Lakes Hosta Societies in several roles including NWIHS newsletter editor. Her garden, located on



Fox Hosta Farm - hostas growing in the woods.

what appears to be a smallish lot from the street, encompasses 1.3 acres. Among the front hosta gardens, the hosta garden on the south side of the house and one in the back yard, approximately 400 different hostas are planted. Mature silver maples shade the hostas-and compete for root space. Perennials, small trees, hydrangeas, shrubs and conifers fill out the gardens and the back yard. Miniature hostas are found in a border along the north side of the house and the driveway. Mary and her next door neighbor, Peggy Sierzputowski, share a love of hostas.

Peggy Sierzputowski reports that the front of her 1.5 acre lot is quite unassuming, much like any other lot in the neighborhood. But, when you walk around the house, the garden invites you in. With her love of hostas came the desire for trees. Peggy reports she has many large old trees that shade her hostas and house woodpeckers and other wildlife. She loves flowering trees and has included magnolias, dogwoods, tulip trees, and a bottlebrush buckeye. Paths lead to areas to relax and enjoy a park-like setting. Peggy loves to show off her garden and says that every day provides something new to see or experience like the fragrance of magnolia blooms or the sight of a hummingbird at the feeder.

Fox Hosta Farm Bob Fox grows over 600 varieties of hostas for sale. He has over 60 varieties of daylilies and over 20 varieties of ornamental grasses. Starter size plants to mature clumps are available. Bob reported that when they built their house the lawn went abruptly from grass to wild woods. They decided to border the lawn with hosta

NIHS BUS TOUR 2015 *continued*

to be a break point to the woods. Plants from friends and neighbors gave them their start. As time and money permitted more plants were added. Bob's son took quite an interest in hostas. Once he filled the yard where he lived he asked if he could clear a small spot in the woods to continue collecting. They never thought this interest would last but it sure did. Today, Bob's woods contain about 1000 named varieties as well as his own hybrids. <http://foxhostafarm.com>

The Gardens at Niemeyer's (Formerly Gardens on the Prairie) offers annual flowers, perennials, trees and shrubs for sale and maintains extensive display gardens. Wayne Gruber, who manages Niemeyer's gardens, founded Gardens on the Prairie and joined Niemeyer's last year. His interest in gardening dates to his childhood and he studied landscape management design at the horticulture school of Purdue University. The display gardens at Niemeyer's have been very popular. Weddings, art fairs and charitable events

are regularly scheduled at the gardens. Wayne frequently lectures and writes about landscaping and residential gardening. As a rare treat, not only will he host our group at Niemeyer's, but he will open his personal garden in Crown Point for us to tour as well. <http://www.niemeyerstone.com/products/plants-and-flowers>

Ginny Feyes began her garden about 10 years ago upon moving to Lowell. The former owner did not garden, so the slate was clean and ready to create. She brought about 15 hostas and other plants from her previous garden, and began planting among the trees in the front, after removing the weak lawn. Ginny admits to being a hostaholic. At last count her collection included 812 different hosta varieties and many other companion plants. Each year, she squeezes in new plants wherever there is space. Her lot borders on a wooded area, and includes 19 large bur oaks, shagbark hickory, and other trees so there is lots of shade.

Lowell, Indiana Bus Tour June 13 Order Form

Please print this page and mail it with your check. **Due date is 04/27/15**

QUESTIONS: Email marekoske@gmail.com or call 224-622-1171

Make checks payable to: Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Send to: Mark Rekoske, 10902 Hickory Nut Way, Richmond, IL 60071



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, directions to the parking lot and the tour schedule will be sent via email.

Email _____

Note: Registration 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.

Introducing the 2015 NIHS Sponsor Plants

by Lou Horton

By now, many of you know that our source of plants ever since the program began 15 years or so ago, Q&Z Nursery, has closed its doors. But NIHS member Jim Morrow picked up our 100 plants prior to Q&Z's close in October. Jim has cared for the hostas ever since. Thanks Jim! Unfortunately, Jim does not have a climate controlled greenhouse nor the luxury of dozens of extra plants to replace those lost in dormancy as did Q&Z. Jim has provided the plants the required amount of dormancy in his garage and has moved the hostas to a climate controlled room under lights in his basement. It is too early at this writing to tell how many plants have survived the process.

As a result, we will not be taking pre-orders for the plants this year. They will be offered on a first come, first served basis at our Spring Symposium at Cantigny Park in Wheaton on Sunday, April 26th. Below is a description of each of the four plants we are offering this year.

Clear Fork River Valley (2007, Van Wade) This is an all green, large plant well known for its extreme amount of puckering in mature leaves. It has a shiny leaf surface. It is an eye catcher in the garden and grows well. Price: \$8



Curly Fries (2008, Bob Solberg) This is a seedling of Pineapple Upsidedown Cake. Its narrow leaves are twisted with fluted edges and contain superior substance to not only its parent but to most other narrow leaved hostas. It is considered a small hosta. Price: \$8

Spartacus (2007, Hans Hansen) This variegated sport of Sea Gulf Stream features distinctive fluted leaf edges and is a worthy addition to any hosta garden. Cost: \$8

Ivory Tower (1996, Dick and Jane Ward) This is the oldest of the cultivars for this year and yet it is easily the least well known. It is a gold seedling from Sagae - one of my all-time favorites. It features the same vase shape as its parent as well as large size. I do not own it yet for my own garden

but I promise that I will soon. Cost: \$8

To maximize the opportunity for as many members as possible to obtain these plants, we will, as usual, restrict everyone to one plant per cultivar until everyone has had a chance to get one. If there are extras, we will sell them at the meeting.



Hosta 'Clear Fork River Valley'



Left - Hosta 'Curly Fries'

Above - Hosta 'Spartacus'

Below - Hosta 'Ivory Tower'



JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT THE Spring Symposium, Speaker & Plant Pick-up on April 26, 1 pm

This year's Spring Symposium will be at a new location, the Education Center at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, on **April 26 beginning at 1:00 pm**. The featured speaker will be **Craig Kruckenberg, Cantigny's Horticulture Manager**, who has been working closely with NIHS to create an AHS National Hosta Display Garden at Cantigny.

All NIHS members and their guests are invited to attend this program to learn about one of the biggest projects NIHS has ever undertaken.

Craig will provide us an overview of Cantigny Park which includes many beautiful gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum, a golf course and a busy schedule of events and educational programs. The highlight of his presentation will be Craig's description of the landscape plan for our new hosta garden and how we are implementing it.

The presentation will also demonstrate how the cooperative relationship that has grown between Cantigny and NIHS will produce an outstanding American Hosta Society National Hosta Display Garden.

With a background in landscape architecture, Craig's experience has been an invaluable resource to NIHS.

Following the presentation we can tour the new hosta gardens and other areas of Cantigny, weather and time permitting.

Directions to Cantigny Park follow. After you have parked, go into the Visitors Center, where you will be able to get directions for the short walk to the Education Center, where we will meet. Tram service is available for those who need assistance.

From the Northern Suburbs Take I-355 to the East-West Tollway (I-88 west). Exit I-88 at Winfield Road, and travel north approximately three miles. The park entrance is on the right side of the road before Roosevelt Road (Route 38).

From the South Suburbs Take the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) north to the East-West Tollway (I-88 west). Proceed as above.

From the Southwest Suburbs Take I-355 north to the East-West Tollway (I-88 west). Proceed as above.

From the West Take the East-West Tollway (I-88) east and exit at Winfield Road. Proceed as above.

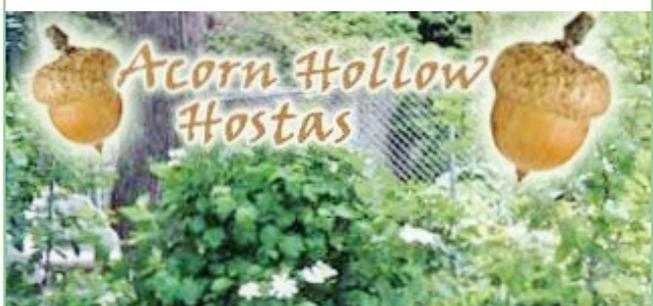
From the Northwest Suburbs Take Route 59 south. Exit Route 59 at Route 38 (Roosevelt Road) East. Take Route 38 east to Winfield Road. Turn right at Winfield Road. The park entrance is on your left approximately 200 yards.



Craig Kruckenberg is the Horticulture Manager at Cantigny Park, the historic estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick. Craig is responsible for the site and landscape design improvements throughout the park property. He is also the senior designer responsible for all of the annual and perennial displays within the garden and golf course. Craig holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University and has over 25 years of experience in the field.

WANTED: CANTIGNY AHS GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Help us create what we hope will become an American Hosta Society National Hosta Display Garden at Cantigny Gardens in Wheaton! This is one of the most exciting projects NIHS has undertaken. Cantigny requires minimal training—see information on upcoming training sessions and our April Symposium at Cantigny on page 8 of this newsletter.



In 2015 I will offer 20+ hosta cultivars grown here for four years but never offered before by me. My 2015 Hosta Sale Day will be Saturday May 23rd from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Other times by appointment.

**Lou Horton 1N735 Ingalton Ave
West Chicago, IL 630-293-7735**

WANTED: HOSTA WALK GARDEN HOSTS

Our Program VP, Mark Rekoske, is always looking for special gardens for hosta walks. If you know of such gardens, or if you have one, please contact Mark at marekoske@gmail.com.



Botanical Gardens – Arboretum – Garden Center



Open House and Hosta Walk
June 12-13-14

The Barn.....a 4-season event center
opening in June of 2015!
Weddings ✕ Corporate Meetings ✕ Events

Nursery Open: April 10 – October 10
Princeton, Illinois (815) 659-3282
www.hornbakergardens.com



Rich's Foxwillow
Pines Nursery, Inc.

Hosta Sale and Bolivian Arts & Crafts Fundraiser
June 6, 2015 August 29, 2015
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
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLICITY CHAIR

The person for this job, which is an appointed Board position, is someone who understands hostaholics, has good computer and internet communication skills, and will enjoy being part of the team working to guide NIHS. The primary responsibility will be to publicize NIHS events that are open to the public, particularly our fundraising auction in August, and activities focused on recruitment of new members. Contact Barbara King at 630-879-2263 or bhk430@att.net with questions or to volunteer.

HOST A HOSTA SOCIETY EVENT

We have two opportunities this year for members to host an NIHS event at their homes: The Annual Meeting, Potluck and Plant Swap in September and the Holiday Gathering in early December. Sunday afternoons are preferred for these events, but the host gets to pick which one. NIHS will give \$75 toward the main course and beverages, and we will provide the paper goods, cups, etc. Usually 30 – 40 people come and bring dishes to pass. Our Hospitality Chair will arrange help for setup and cleanup. If you can help, contact Barbara King at 630-879-2263 or bhk430@att.net.

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
(815) 521-9535

BECOME AN NIHS VOLUNTEER AT CANTIGNY GARDENS!

Help Create a Spectacular AHS National Hosta Display Garden

Last November's Special Edition of this newsletter featured June Vandervest's story and many photos of a dozen enthusiastic NIHS volunteers at Cantigny working on the first stage of the AHS display garden last fall. This spring we will plant 50 – 100 more hostas and many companion plants. So we are going to need even more help.

Become an NIHS Cantigny volunteer, and you will be able to join the fun of working with fellow NIHS members to develop a beautiful hosta garden that will be seen by thousands of Cantigny visitors each year. Cantigny requires a single training/orientation session of less than two hours for new volunteers, after which you may participate in as many or as few NIHS volunteer workdays at the garden as your schedule permits. You will not be expected to work at Cantigny in any other capacity unless you choose to.

Two training/orientation sessions are being offered for new NIHS volunteers this spring:

Friday, March 20, at 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 15, at 1:00 pm

Let us know which one you want to attend. We will provide directions and any other pertinent information after we hear from you. Please respond to Barbara King, 630-879-2263 or bhk430@att.net.



Above - (l to r) Barbara King, Sandhya Matthews, Craig Kruckenberg, & John Stancik in Oct 2014

Left - Happy volunteers in Oct 2014

Below - Corney Myroup lays the wood chip path with help from Lou Horton & Jim King in Oct 2014.

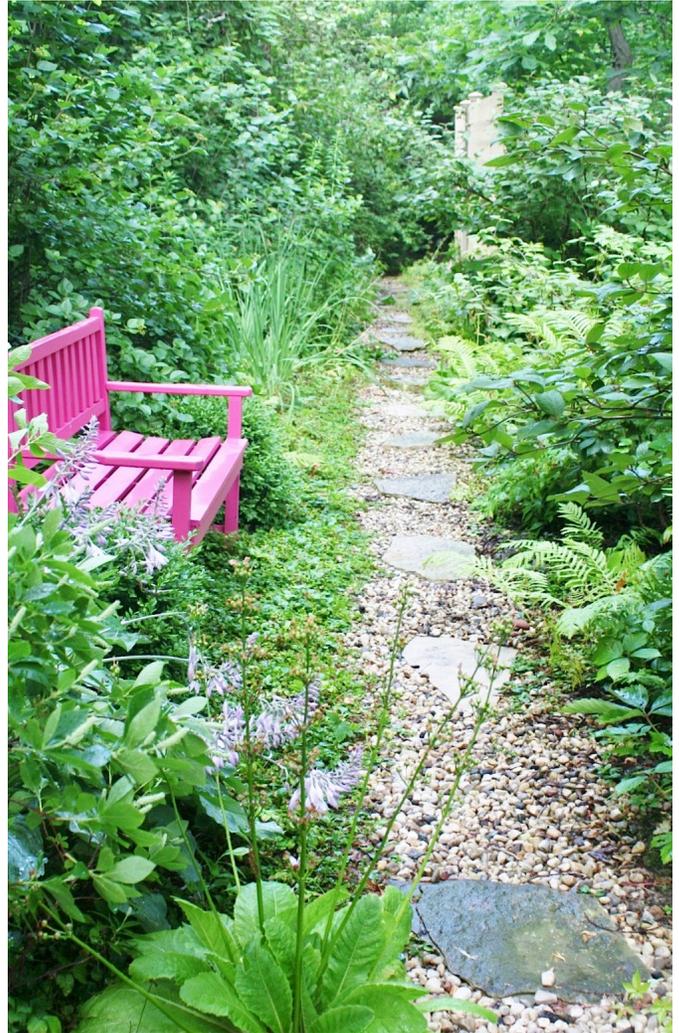


Keep in mind that Cantigny treats its volunteers extremely well, with special volunteer events, gifts (including gorgeous full-size poinsettias at Christmastime!) and recognition throughout the year. You will get a lot of satisfaction from being among them and from helping NIHS with an important project! Barbara King *June Vandervest photos*



June 28 Hosta Garden Walk in Lake Forest Preview

Our first garden walk of the season will be at the Lake Forest home of Cappy Johnston. Cappy gardens on a gorgeous heavily wooded one acre edge of a ravine. She manages over 420 hosta varieties - all labeled - in 21 different beds. She is an accomplished Master Gardener in Lake County and an avid hosta plant and knowledge collector. Ask her to show you her hosta database and website! Every year her husband says of the garden, "Well, it looks like you're finally done." Cappy says "we gardeners know that a garden is never done."



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Back To Basics: Hosta Fact Sheet

By Bob Solberg, 1st Installment of 3

“Sometimes it is time to get back to the basics, to tell the old stories again so we can all try to share in the same view of the hosta world.” Bob Solberg

1. Hostas have lily-like flowers but are members of the agave family. For years hostas were considered in the lily family based on the structure of their flowers. With the advent of DNA testing hostas because of their uniqueness have either been put in their own family, the *Hostaceae*, or lumped into the asparagus family, the *Asparagaceae*, in the agave subfamily *Agavoideae*. Hostas and agaves have the same chromosome numbers. Think of them as similar plants, one adapted to moist forests and meadows and the other adapted to dryer conditions.

2. Hostas are perennial annuals. Hostas have an annual life cycle. They emerge in the spring, make new leaves and roots, produce flowers and seeds, and then go dormant for the winter. They have a seed-based biology, tall flowering scapes, easy for bee pollinators to find, that scatter seeds away from the mother plant. They have perennial crown tissue that stores energy over the winter and forms dormant buds to repeat the process year after year. In the care of a good gardener, hostas are immortal.

3. Hostas are shade plants. Some say hostas tolerate shade but I think they prefer some shade. They would like more sun, however, than most of us give them. They appreciate light but their leaves will



Hosta 'Leapin Lizzard'

burn in the direct sunlight of a hot summer. Morning sun is usually a great placement for hostas or areas of the garden with bright indirect lighting.

4. Hostas are drought tolerant. Yes, amazingly hostas will survive the most extreme drought but not without some damage to the crown resulting in smaller plants the following year. Hostas will dry rot in hot, dry summers and sometimes emerge as little tissue culture like plants in the spring. In fact, hostas love water. I do not know if you can water them, too much. In fact you can grow them in a shallow stream or in a pot in a pond. In very rainy summers, their foliage might develop fungal infections but the next spring their spot free leaves will emerge bigger and better than ever.

5. Hostas are native plants. Hostas are native plants in Japan, China, Korea, and Russia. *H. ventricosa* has even become naturalized in some parts of the United States. There are between 20 and 40 species of hostas in the wild depending on whether you are a lumpers or a splitter but many are rarely used to produce new hosta cultivars.

Here are the hosta species that really matter to horticulture and hosta collectors.

H. montana, *H. sieboldiana*, *H. fluctuans*, and *H. nigrescens* are the parents to most large hosta hybrids. *H. sieboldiana* is the origin of almost all blue hostas. *H. plantaginea* is the origin of all fragrant-flowered hostas. *H. sieboldii* is the beginning point for hosta variegation, although many new variegated hostas have *H. sieboldiana* ('Dorothy Benedict') as a parent.

Purple pigments in the leaf petioles and scapes of hostas can be found in the *Continued next page*

Back To Basics: Hosta Fact Sheet

continued

Japanese species of *H. longipes*, *H. kikutii*, *H. hypoleuca*, and *H. pycnophylla*. Red pigments, especially the ones I have isolated in the leaves of hostas, primarily come from the Korean species *H. yingeri*, *H. tsushimensis*, and *H. clausa* as well as the Japanese species, *H. sieboldii*.

Small and miniature hostas are hybridized generally from *H. venusta*, *H. nakaiana*, *H. longissima*, *H. gracillima* and *H. sieboldii*. While useful in hybridizing, *H. ventricosa* and *H. lancifolia* are traditional landscape plants useful in mass plantings, borders, and ringing trees.

6. Hostas are huge. Giant hostas are spectacular. There is nothing quite like seeing a garden of seven foot wide hostas, taller than your belly button. They are like skyscrapers, amazing structures that we cannot quite fathom how they came to be. We really do not know how, where, or when that tiny seedling that became 'Sum and Substance' first appeared on earth but it exceeded all our expectations. Now it's the bigger the better, and 'Empress Wu' has become the new hosta synonymous with huge. I am impressed every summer by the giants; every garden no matter how small should have a few.

7. Hostas are tiny. Miniature hostas are cute. Some minis are small because they come from small parents but some are small because they do not grow well. I like the vigorous ones even if they have to be divided every once in a while to keep them in their designated space. 'Tears of Joy' is an upright twisted tiny leafed hosta from *H. venusta* parentage. The leaf twisting is caused by some strange mutation that has also reduced the flower petals so that the flowers appear tiny and yellow, with just the pollen on the anthers visible. Hostas of extreme sizes, large or small, are equally amazing.



Hosta 'Sourpuss'

8. Hostas are low maintenance, carefree plants. True, plant a hosta and walk away from it and it will survive on its own. If you want to maximize your hosta's potential and your enjoyment of their company, then a little fertilizer in the spring, irrigation in dry times, and maybe a little weeding and mulching will make a big difference. Half of the fun of gardening is helping your hostas prosper.

9. Hostas do need to be fertilized. Many hosta gardeners tell me that they never feed their hostas. Maybe they all have deep rich soils but hostas like all plants need specific nutrients in ample supply to make their own food. For hostas, nitrogen and magnesium are the most important for producing large, high quality leaves. Try a foliar feed of liquid fertilizer in the spring a couple of times and see if your hostas don't look happier.

10. Hostas are virtually pest and disease free. Hostas can be, and I do not mean in a virtual internet kind of way. If you are careful how you obtain your new hostas you can probably avoid foliar nematodes and Hosta Virus X, the two pest problems that get all the research money and bad press. That leaves slugs, sticks, and fungus, all temporary flaws on hosta leaves that will not reappear the next spring. I think it is unreasonable to want your hosta leaves to remain unblemished all summer; after all they do live in the real world. *From The Green Hill Gossip 2014, part 1 of 3*

Holiday Partying!

Last December Andy & Faith Campbell hosted our annual holiday funfest. The weather cooperated, the Campbells' home was brightly decorated and the hosta cheer was invigorating!



Merry makers clockwise from top right:

Maxine Butcher, Shirley Nolan & Mary Ann Brucher;

Andy & Faith Campbell with charming granddaughters
Cortney & Kayla ;

Lou Horton & John Van Ostrand share hosta leaf levity;

Jill Morrow, Faith Zell, & Eva Whitlow

Jim King & Jim Morrow





More Holiday Partyers clockwise from top right:

Nancy Slove, Olga Swehla & Rosemary Sieverin;

Carl Fulkerson & John Van Ostrand;

Andy Campbell & Barbara King;

June Vandervest, Eva Whitlow & Judi Asselborn;

Lenny Kraus, Andy Campbell & Mike Kraus;

Faith Zell & Connie Hood



2015 MRHS Convention *A Hosta Rendezvous*

When: July 9-11, 2015

Where: Holiday Inn, 450 Main Street, Dubuque, Iowa 52001
563-556-2000 888-465-4329 (reserved Rate is \$124) [Hotel Information](#)

Gardens: There will be 6 gardens to tour on Saturday. (Optional Bus Tour with boxed lunch \$30 per person - limited to the first 50 paid advance registrants.)

Sunday - Optional garden tours (information provided at registration)

Dining:

Thursday - Optional River Cruise with dinner (Prime Rib or Chicken) on the [Spirit of Dubuque](#). Special rate of \$50.00 per person. Limited to 60 registrants. Make reservations directly. (563-583-8093)

The following meals are included with your registration:

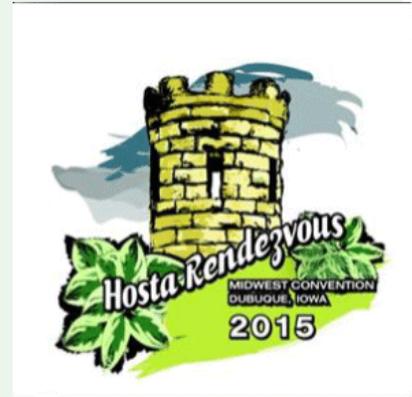
Friday - Dinner BBQ at the [Arboretum](#).

Saturday - Continental Breakfast and Evening Banquet

Registration: Printable [Registration Form](#). <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/Registration%20Form%202015%20MRHS.pdf>

Hosta Seedling Competition: [Seedling Competition Information](#).

Mark your calendar now. more information Contact Cheryl Hird 563-557-1535



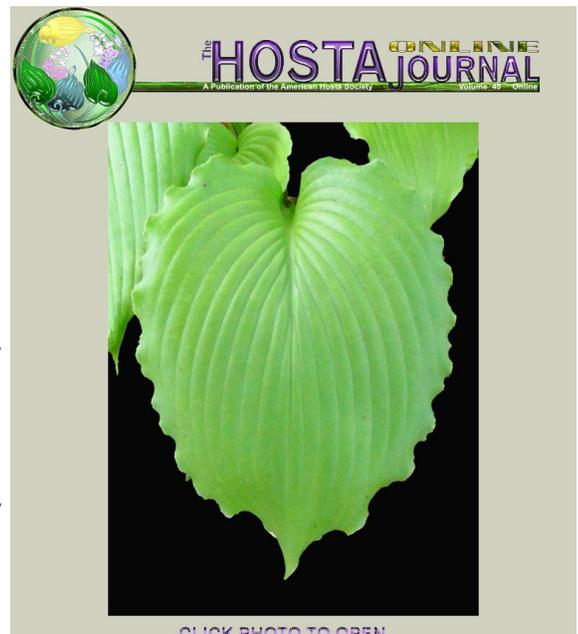
ON THE COVER of The Hosta Online Journal of the AHS

Floyd Rogers, former Hosta Happenings newsletter editor and longtime NIHS member is also a hosta breeder. Floyd registered hosta 'Golden Ripples' in 1999. Hosta 'Golden Ripples' was featured on the cover of The Hosta Online Journal of the AHS in January 2015.

Floyd comments on the process of bringing H. 'Golden Ripples' to market - "It went into tissue culture and 300 babies were sent back to Butterfield Gardens in Warrenville, IL. They were promptly killed by our professional and highly trained staff."

Visit my garden to meet the survivors.

Photo by Floyd Rogers



Woodland Treasures: Hardy Cyclamen

Many genera of alpine or rock garden plants contain species that span a broad spectrum of horticultural interest, from the stunningly beautiful through the botanically interesting to the downright ugly. The genus *Cyclamen* is one of few whose numerous species and cultivars are universally appealing.

Cyclamen are endowed with charming flowers ranging in color from near red through pink to white; some are even bicolored. Flower shape varies considerably, lending additional interest. If further encouragement is needed, different *Cyclamen* species can be found in flower at any time from July through to April. They possess a variety of fragrances, and variably shaped, beautifully marked leaves that give interest and much pleasure long after the blooms have gone.

The ease of growing most *Cyclamen* species adds to their horticultural value. There is hardly a region of North America that cannot provide a garden home for at least one species. *Cyclamen purpurascens* and *C. coum* are winter hardy in more protected areas of northern Illinois.

Cyclamen hederifolium is remarkably winter hardy and weather-resistant, even in the coldest zones. *C. hederifolium* is also called Persian Violet, hardy in zones 5 to 9, blooms in September to October and is native to Southern Europe & Turkey. It blooms pink to white tinged with pink, about 6 inches tall to one foot wide, requires part shade, likes woodland moist humusy soils & conditions and will naturalize. Plant corms just below the surface in spring. Extremely attractive, ivy-shaped, mottled leaves are variably colored, but usually gray-green with silver lining and white marbling. The flower stalks rise up in late summer after summer dormancy and are fol-

lowed by the foliage which persists through winter and spring. Goes dormant in late spring through summer. Mixes well with mini hostas in the shaded area of the rock garden. Also effective massed in front of shrubs, large hostas and around trees or in woodland gardens.

(Excerpted from "The Magic of Cyclamen," John Lonsdale, the Bulletin of the North American Rock Garden Society, Fall 2001 and from information from The Missouri Botanical Garden.)



Cyclamen purpurascens, with fragrant summer blooms.



Cyclamen hederifolium

Nancy and Bob Solberg invite you to visit beautiful North Carolina next June and have nothing but fun. Our theme is "Back to the Future". We plan to combine the friendliness and simplicity of the conventions in the 90's while focusing on the future of hostas and hosta gardening.

Dates: Thursday- Saturday, June 18-20,
2015 with optional tours Wednesday, June 17.

Hotel: Hilton North Raleigh North/Midtown,
3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609,
919-872-2323. Special Double Room Rate
\$105.00.

Tour Gardens: On Friday, we will visit 5 local residential gardens including David Spain's nationally known moss garden, On Thursday evening we will visit Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanical Gardens. The nursery and extensive gardens are renowned for their diversity of rare plant material including many new hybrids produced as part of their research mission, www.plantdelights.com.

On Saturday morning, the buses will take you to Green Hill Farm in Franklinton, owned by Nancy and Bob Solberg, which is one of the leading sources of new hostas, www.HostaHosta.com.

Lunch Stop: On Friday our lunch stop will be at the North Carolina State Farmers Market in Raleigh. In addition to the wide selection of produce available from North Carolina, (it should be peach season), there are many interesting plants for sale also. You will enjoy a gourmet box lunch and then snack your way around the market testing the free samples.

Scientific Session: We plan to have an old fashion "Scientific Session", Thursday afternoon. The topic will be the "Future of Hostas" and hosta hybridizers everywhere are invited to send Bob Solberg, (HostaBob@gmail.com) a photo of their three best unnamed seedlings along with a description, parentage, etc. They will then be presented in a PowerPoint presentation as a group.

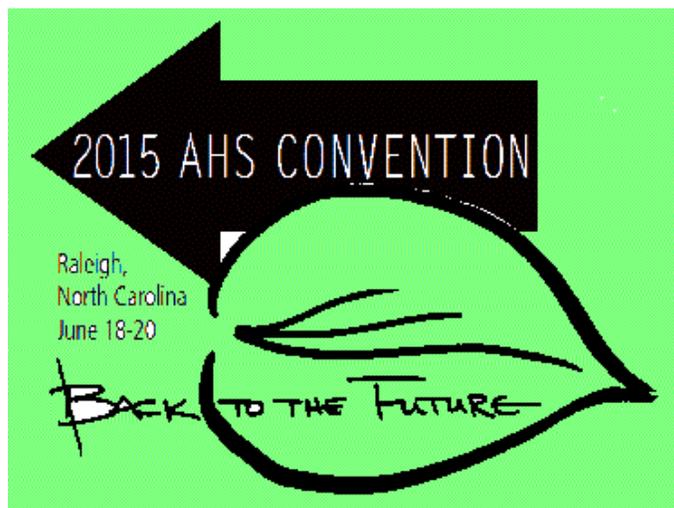
Hosta Show: Not only will we have the display of leaves and the artistic division but also a containerized seedling and sport contest, (Division VII).

Vending: We hope to have a good number of hosta vendors at the convention. We will have other plants available also as well as other items to decorate your garden or home.

Auction: Saturday afternoon we will have our annual auction open to the public. It usually features new hostas, rare hostas, and large hosta clumps as well as other hosta related items

Finally, there will be the usual meetings, judging clinics and an Awards Banquet on Saturday night. We will also provide a list of public gardens and nurseries that you can visit before or after the convention on your own. Plan to extend your stay here and make a **vacation out of your trip.**

Registration Form: <http://www.2015ahsconvention.com/2015RegistrationForm.pdf>



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Yellow Hostas, Love at First Sight

By Bob Solberg

I have said many times that as hosta folks we all seem to go through the same series of predictable phases of collecting. Variegated hostas especially those with white or yellow colored leaf centers first attract us. Then we get the inevitable hosta blues that may last for years, filling our gardens with every blue hosta we can find, searching for the bluest of all. Then one spring all that blue looks a little too peaceful and calm and suddenly gold fever strikes. Yellow hostas are all we see. This infection usually lasts only for a year or two at the most.

By now our hosta collector's eye has matured and, believe it or not solid, green hostas become very interesting. Puckers, ruffles, and the subtle shades of green interest us more than riotous color. Then our interest wanders one of many ways. For me, crazy as it sounds, I am not a big fan of variegated hostas. Streaked hostas do not increase my pulse rate.

*Hosta 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie'*

White-centered hostas fill me with dread; I fear for their lives. I like solid colored hostas best and of them I have a thing for the yellow ones.

It probably began when I started growing hosta seeds. Grow some seeds of a yellow hosta and

you will germinate yellow ones, blue ones, usually, and green ones. What a deal. I started with 'August Moon', still an underused parent, but it was when I began to create my own line of yellow hostas that I really fell in love with them. There is always something special about your own kids.

So here is the somewhat ironic tale of my love for yellow hostas. It started with two really nondescript late flowering hostas. I am crazy busy running a nursery through the month of June but things slow down to near normal in the heat of July. Only then can I turn my full attention to hybridizing hostas so I have always used late flowering hostas as parents

primarily. (My 'August Moon' seedlings were produced from a re-blooming plant in the nursery.) So, it was a cross of the fairly newly discovered at the time *H. yingeri* and a yellow form of *H. tsushimensis*, now called 'Ogon Tsushima', that was the starting point for most all of my bright yellow hostas.

*Hosta 'Smiley Face'*

That first cross produced two hostas that I named, 'Whiskey Sour', which favored its *H. tsushimensis* parent, with bright yellow spring color and puckers, and 'Sun Catcher' that looked more like *H. yingeri*, with heavier substance and more sun tolerance. While unique, they looked like they could be improved so I crossed them together with their siblings, a F2 cross. They tended to become green in hot weather so I wanted their prodigy to stay yellow longer and they also had bright red color on about half their petioles. I thought it would be nice to enhance that, too. So I was selecting now for two colors, yellow and red.

The two best seedlings from the F2 cross became 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie', again the most *H. tsushimensis* looking seedling and 'Sun Worshiper', the *H. yingeri* representative. The yellow was much better and the red now extended up the petiole to the base of the leaf blade. I loved the yellow but most visitors only saw red. Always sensitive to my customers' preferences, I realized that this bright red color was something new and should continue to be enhanced if possible.

As luck would have it, I had also been fooling around with some rather ratty looking second generation seedlings from *H. clausa normalis*. I wanted that bright red color on the base of the flower tube to find its way into the flowers of my seedlings. Why not try to put it on the leaf petioles, too? One yellow seedling had good red petioles but lacked vigor, substance, and wanted to run all over the garden. I decided to cross it with 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie' and its siblings. I had now, more or less unwittingly, crossed three Korean species, *continued*

Frozen in Downers Grove



“Looking out my window, what I now see on the left will reward me with the beautiful Hosta scene on the right in a couple of months. Have patience, Spring is just around the corner!” June Vandervest photos by June Vandervest

Yellow Hostas, Love at First Sight continued

combining their genes for producing red in hosta leaves.

Maybe 100 seedlings resulted from four crosses. The crosses with ‘Strawberry Banana Smoothie’ proved the most interesting and resulted in a great diversity of leaf shapes, from narrow to round. The addition of the *H. clausa normalis* genetic material had not only intensified the red in the petioles and flower scapes but also pushed the red up into the



Hosta ‘Mango Salsa’

leaf along the midrib. Four hostas from this cross made it into trade, little ‘Smiley Face’ with its unusual thick, round leaves and pink scape and petioles, ‘Lemon Ice’, the largest of the four, with bright red emerging buds and bright yellow leaves in spring, ‘Peach Salsa’, with its light yellow leaves and bright red scapes, and my favorite, ‘Mango Salsa’, not quite as yellow but with

more narrow ruffled leaves with good substance and blood red petioles and scapes full of pretty purple flowers.

From the first cross of this long line of yellow hostas several of the seedlings showed some red color on the tips of leaves, at least for a few weeks in early spring. Some of the seedlings from the other three crosses of the ‘Strawberry Banana Smoothie’ siblings and the *H. clausa normalis* seedlings produced hostas with persistent red on the tips of leaves and in the case of ‘Beet Salad’ a thin red edge on the leaf margin. ‘Beet Salad’ is green, not yellow but has located red pigment in the vein that surrounds its leaves and has wonderful dark red scapes. It also passes red edges on to its seedlings!

So what started as a plan to create hostas that stayed bright yellow in the shade became the quest for the red leaf hosta. Ironically, it is a green hosta, ‘Beet Salad’ that seems to have gotten us there, but that is a story for another day. For me, every spring I fall in love with my bright yellow Korean hostas again. It doesn’t hurt that they are accessorized in red but unlike many of you, I still see the yellow first, and last. from The Green Hill Gossip 2014

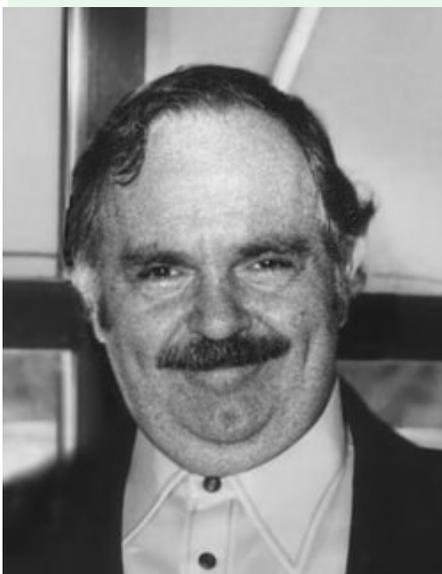
NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
 HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Who Was Florence Shaw?

by Harold McDonell

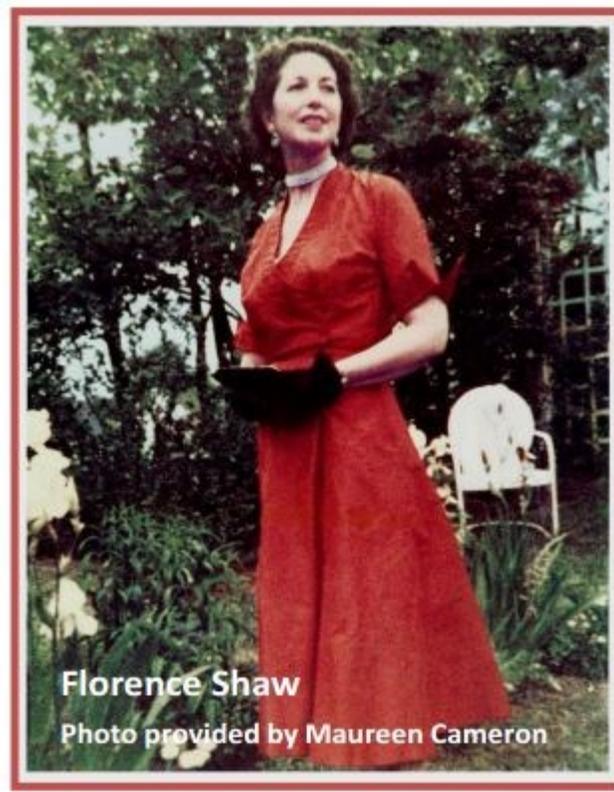
For many years, controversy has swirled in the hosta world regarding the real origins of the late **Paul Aden's** hostas. From the late 1970's on into the mid-1990's, Mr. Aden introduced and promoted many great hostas that helped make the genus the super-star shade garden plant that it is today. Such hostas as 'Sum and Substance', 'Blue Angel', 'Zounds', 'Sun Power', 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Golden Waffles', 'Love Pat', 'Great Expectations' and many dozens of others were routinely attributed to his hybridizing prowess.

Until 1997, registration of hostas did not require that an originator's (hybridizer's) name be provided, just the registrant's name. Mr. Aden took advantage of that and properly listed himself as the person registering the hostas he introduced. He also certainly led people to believe that he was the hybridizer although he was careful never to definitively say he was. As his hostas gained immense popularity, he gained fame. Everyone in the hosta world knew who Paul Aden was and most admired him immensely. However, there were a few knowledgeable hostaphiles who did not share that admiration and rumors abounded over the years as to the origin of his cultivars.



Paul Aden, circa 1969

Mr. Aden gardened on a relatively small lot on Long Island, New York which likely could not have supported a hybridizing program capable of producing all the fantastic hostas that he registered and introduced. Also, his reluctance to share parentage information and his



Florence Shaw

Photo provided by Maureen Cameron

demonstrated lack of basic hosta hybridizing knowledge led many to question just where the cultivars really originated. Over the years, the controversy grew as a small but dedicated group of hostaphiles continued to challenge Mr. Aden's vague explanations.

Finally in 2012, AHS took on the challenge to find some definitive answers with the formation of the AHS Cultivar Origination Commission to study the origins of Aden hostas. Commission members already knew the likely origins of some of his cultivars such as H. 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Fragrant Blue', 'Pizzaz', and 'So Sweet' which have been attributed to Kevin Vaughn by many for years. It was common knowledge that Mr. Aden had helped himself to a number of Kevin's seedlings from his mother's garden while he was away in college. As the commission began digging further into the origins of other Aden plants, another name popped up. The name was Florence Shaw.

Just who was Florence Shaw? *Continued next page*

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Winter Scientific Meeting 2015



NIHS members Jim Morrow, Mark Rekoske (who helped organize the 2015 WSM), and Pete Postlewaite like the new venue, the NIU Conference Center.



Olga Swehla and Mary Ann Brucher finish their WSM lunch break.

Pictures courtesy of Barbara King

Who Was Florence Shaw?

continued

Mrs. Shaw and her husband lived on a multi-acre estate called Birchwood in Weston, Massachusetts, an exclusive suburb of Boston. She was a consummate plant lover and, being a woman of means, she was able to amass an impressive collection of rare plants including very rare (at the time) hosta species and cultivars. According to the commission's findings, she conducted an extensive hosta hybridization program unknown to all but a very few. She became quite ill in 1973 and died in 1974. According to people who knew of her hybridizing program, she produced many stunning seedlings but she registered none herself. A few of them were registered and attributed to her by AHS after her death. Most of these carried the Birchwood prefix in the names. Some of her very best seedlings were taken without permission from her garden during her lingering illness and possibly after her death. Soon afterwards, many plants looking very similar to her most prized seedlings appeared in the Aden garden. As a result of information obtained during its investigation, the commission was able to definitively determine that 16 cultivars that Aden had named, registered, and introduced were indeed Florence Shaw's originations.

Among these were such blockbusters as H. 'Big Mama', 'Big Daddy', 'Blue Angel', 'Blue Cadet', 'Blue Umbrellas', 'Fascination', 'Golden Waffles', 'Love Pat', 'Sum and Substance', and 'Zounds'. The commission further found that many other Aden introductions were likely also the originations of Mrs. Shaw but it did not have enough evidence to support having them listed under her name as the originator.

So now we know. Florence Shaw was one of the foremost early hybridizers of hostas in the 20th century and perhaps the greatest. Certainly she was the greatest hybridizer that no one knew about – until now! Ironically, the commission found that, were it not for Paul Aden acquiring, registering, introducing, and promoting her plants, many of them would probably have been lost forever. For that, credit is due him. However, Mrs. Shaw's magnificent contributions to the genus *Hosta*, which Mr. Aden worked so diligently to credit to himself only, have finally been brought to light and, with that, a great wrong has now been righted.

For more detailed information about Florence Shaw, Paul Aden, Kevin Vaughn and the commission's findings, please check out:

1. Hosta Library web site – "The Paul Aden Story" by Bill Meyer
2. AHS 2012 & 2013 Online Journal – various articles Reprinted from The Georgia Hosta Society Jan 2015

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Controlling Slugs by Attracting House Wrens

By Dan Hartinger

My wife Cyndy and I live on a wooded ravine (0.37 acres) in Columbus. With all the shade we have in our yard, hostas (50+) are our primary landscaping perennial. In years past I would spend much time (and beer!) trying to protect these precious plants from the ravages of slugs. What I have discovered over the past two years is that these pests can be effortlessly controlled by attracting natural predators to your yard. BIRDS! House wrens in particular.

Bird-watching has been an interest of mine since I was little, and while visiting a bookstore in a national park, I purchased a book titled "Woodworking for Wildlife". I have always enjoyed woodworking, so I decided to build a couple birdhouses for our backyard. However, while reading this book I discovered how aggressive and predatory the English house sparrows are and how they have killed off much of the native songbird population here in the U.S. To exclude these non-native birds, you must use a bird house with an opening diameter of 1 1/8" or less. Fortunately, our native house wren only needs an opening of 1" to 1 1/8" and this will nicely exclude the house sparrow from taking over the bird house.

The house wren, I have discovered, is a blessing to us in two ways. First they have a beautiful song (and quite loud for such a small bird) and second they have a voracious appetite for insects. After putting up our two wren houses, I've noticed almost no slug activity in my yard during the past two years, and I'm getting ready to add a third wren house towards the back of our yard.

Things to keep in mind when buying or building a wren house:

1. Make sure the house is 5'-10' off the ground to protect the wrens from cats and other predators. I used a metal fence pole. If you own a cat, attach a bell to its collar to warn birds of its approach!
2. Provide a hinged roof or wall to clean out the house every year. The roof should be sloped to shed water and



should extend 2" past the front of the house to prevent rain from coming in.

3. Never use perches on a birdhouse since only the sparrows use them. Even if a sparrow can't fit into a wren house, it will sit on the perch and attack the wrens as they try to enter or leave the house!

4. Drill at least four 3/8" diameter drain holes into the bottom of the house and make sure the bottom plate is enclosed by the walls and is recessed at least 1/4" up from the bottom.

5. Drill two 5/8" holes near the top of the house, on opposite walls, to provide ventilation. Don't use tin cans, milk cartons or sheet metal for nests, since these materials do not provide enough insulation.

6. A four foot piece of 1" x 6" cedar or redwood plank is all that's needed to build a house (plus some nails, screws and/or glue). Never use treated wood! The outside of the house can be painted, but never paint the inside! The minimum inside dimensions should be 4" x 5" x 5" high.

7. Make sure the opening diameter is no larger than 1 1/8" and is placed about 1" down from the top. Happy birding and happy gardening to all! *Reprinted from the North Coast Hosta Society*



NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual Meeting, September 7, 2014

President Barbara King called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm at the home of Ron and Judi Asselborn. Approximately 35 members of NIHS were in attendance. Barbara introduced several new members.

The minutes from the 2013 annual meeting were approved with a motion from Mike Kraus, seconded by Floyd Rogers.

Instead of a formal President's Report, Barbara presented a light-hearted "alphabet soup" review of the year that acknowledges our accomplishments and the contributions of many members. It is attached to these minutes and includes a few post-meeting edits. She then updated information on our intention to create a National Display Garden at Cantigny. We have come to an agreement with Cantigny to proceed. The hostas currently planted will be moved to a different site that is more suitable for hostas. Fifteen members have signed up for training sessions at Cantigny that are required for all volunteers at the garden. Purchase of additional plants has been delayed until the spring of 2015, but we still hope to be able to plant the hostas and companion plants we have been holding, and to move many hostas from the original site to the new site, before the end of this year's growing season.

The new website and our brochure have been helpful in attracting new members, as has Gary Antonich of Your Growing Concerns Nursery, who recruited several of the new people.

Next year's calendar will be finalized shortly by the board. Volunteers are needed to host the spring potluck in March, the annual meeting in September, and the holiday party in December. Jan Smith mentioned there is a meeting room at Windsor Park in Carol Stream where she lives that might be available for an event. She will pursue it and let us know.

Andy Campbell gave the Treasurer's Report. Balance on hand for checking and savings is \$23,452.80. Since we are changing our fiscal year to end on Dec. 31 instead of Aug. 31, Andy presented a stub budget for the next 4 months. It was approved by the membership on a motion by Mike



Enjoying Barbara King's Alphabet Soup Annual Review from left to right: Gary Abrell, Sandhya Matthews (partially hidden), Jan Smith, Susan Moynihan, Lorel Abrell, Bea Mc Govern & Usha Murarka.

Vice President/Programs Mark Rekoske reviewed the past year's events including the May meeting, the bus trip to Grand Rapids, MI, the garden walks and the auction. He asked members to suggest candidates for the hosta garden walks in 2015.

Membership Chair Mike Kraus reported that we have 31 new members but have lost 24 members. Total membership is at 191.

Kraus that was seconded by Carl Fulkerson. Next, Andy's detailed reports showed 2013 and 2014 income and expenditures. A motion was made by Dennis Hood and seconded by Ron Asselborn to approve it, which carried. Then the budget for the full year of 2015 was presented. Dennis Hood made a motion to approve the report; it was seconded by Mike Kraus and approved by the membership. Copies of these financial reports are attached to these minutes.

Andy also reported that IRS has approved NIHS as a non-profit 501(c)4 corporation.

There were a few questions and sharing of information among members regarding a number of issues, including slug control, saving the newsletter in home computers, and identifying hostas. Since NIHS is always looking for new ways to attract new members, there was some discussion of how best to do this. Suggestions were to display information in libraries, work through garden clubs and perhaps to offer seminars. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. Submitted by Penny Fulkerson, Secretary

Continued next page

2014 ANNUAL MEETING ALPHABET SOUP
(President's Report – The Year in Review)

- A** Asselborns, our Annual Meeting hosts. Ron – Editor of NIHS Newsletter, winner of best at AHS convention, also helps with Cantigny planning
Auction – best ever?
Gary Antonich, who donated hundreds of \$ of plants to the auction
- B** Bus Trip to Grand Rapids area in June
By-laws revision
- C** Billy Childress, host of March Potluck and White Elephant Swap
Andy and Faith Campbell, who will host Holiday Party in December
Andy, our Treasurer and solver of financial issues, important leader at last year's convention
Conventions – AHS in Cedar Rapids in mid-June, MRHS in Green Bay in late June
Cantigny Park, site of proposed AHS National Hosta Display Garden being created by NIHS
- D** Delicious food from members at our home-hosted potluck meetings
- E** Rich Eyre, Foxwillow Pines, speaker at our spring symposium at Friendship Park
- F** Penny Fulkerson, Recording Secretary, and Macy's pass seller at the Auction
Field Guide to Hostas, Mark Zilis latest book, offered by the society at a discount to members
- G** Teddy and Howard Goldman, hosts of our first hosta walk in Northbrook in June
Colleen Graudins, board member and host at second hosta walk in Prospect Heights in July



Dining al fresco are (left to right) Mike Kraus, Mark Rekoske, Andy Campbell, Carl Fulkerson, Penny Fulkerson, & Vicki Eaton

- H** Lou Horton, former president who initiated the Cantigny AHS National Display Garden project at Cantigny, helps set up the leaf display at Chicago Botanic Garden and our auction, led the effort to bring the MRHS convention to this area last year
Dennis and Connie Hood, board members and former treasurers, still devoted to NIHS despite a move far, far away to Kirkland
- I** Indelible memories of good times with fellow members at NIHS events
- J** Marcia Jendreas, also a host at the hosta walk in Prospect Heights, and NIHS director of publicity until she took a new job last month
- K** Mike Kraus, Membership Chair, NIHS website designer and web master, and associate solver of NIHS financial issues, helper at auction
Kincaid plant markers, offered to members at a favorable bulk price
- L** Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Garden 5/31 – 6/1
- M** Tom Micheletti, NIHS founder and first president, president of MRHS and of AHS for two terms, winner of Alex Summers and DeEtta Montgomery awards for service to AHS and MRHS, our long-time auctioneer, donor of plants, and supporter of all we do
Jim Morrow, vendor who donated many plants to the auction



The cuisine was a highlight of the Annual Meeting in September.

**2014 ANNUAL MEETING ALPHABET
SOUP** *continued*

Tanner Musso, non-member host of our last hosta walk in Hinsdale

N NIHS, of course

NEW MEMBERS! We welcome you and encourage you to join us in all we do.

New hosta cultivars, which encourage our interest and acquisitiveness.

O OMG! I can't think of anything to put in here.

P Photographers who provide the great pix for the newsletter: Jim Solotke, Ron Asselborn and Jim King.

Q Q & Z Nursery, supplier of sponsor (and other) plants for NIHS events.

R Mark Rekoske, our VP who probably works harder than anyone planning nearly all the events mentioned—bus trip, hosta walks, spring symposium, auction—and does a great job. What would we do without him?

Susan Renwick, a big help at the auction, greeting people, keeping track of purchases, and collecting payments.

Floyd Rogers, though desiring to be in the background, still a big help with all the society's electronic needs

S Spring Symposium at Friendship Park in Des Plaines, an annual event, which includes delivery of

Sponsor plants, which members had ordered through NIHS at favorable prices

Jim Solotke, who in addition to giving us great photos, also provides pro bono legal advice when it's needed.

T THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS FOR



Susan Moynihan, Sandhya Matthews, Tony Kwiatowski, & Sherrie Hughes grazing in the garden.

SUPPORTING US!

U US!

V June Vandervest, our hospitality chair, who tirelessly helps hosts of events like this, and oversees refreshments for all our gatherings.

VOLUNTEERS! We are thankful to you every day. This organization could not exist without you.

W Winter Scientific Meeting, sponsored by MRHS but held in this area every January. (It's really not so scientific! You should go if you haven't already. Very informative.)

Website—ours is new and improved. Check it out.

X = anyone and everyone deserving of credit not given here

Y YOU – OUR MEMBERS. Thanks for supporting the society!

Z Mark Zilis, hosta expert, author, and this year's NIHS auctioneer

Barbara King

Photos provided by Ron Asselborn



Lorel Abrell, Bea McGovern & Betsy Rogers enjoying their repast.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOSTA SEX

by Tony Avent

More folks are seemingly enchanted with growing Hosta from seed. This has significantly increased as folks move away from the "sterile" Hosta 'Undulata' selections. Just like people, Hosta offspring will not look exactly like their parents. Sure, they will share a few of the same characteristics, but don't expect a series of great new hostas.

The first rule of thumb is that the leaf color of the seedling will be derived from the color in the center of the leaf of the parent plant (grandparents are included here also). Green Hostas will usually produce green offspring, blue Hostas will produce some blue, some green, and some gold offspring. Gold Hostas will produce some of each also. Edged variegated Hostas will NOT produce variegated offspring. Only Hostas that have white streaks (streaky) in the center of the leaf will produce variegated offspring. White centered Hostas will produce all white Hostas which usually die in the seed pots due to a lack of chlorophyll.

In my travels to visit "Hosta breeders" around the country, I was shocked to find that the term "breeders" was being used...shall I say, quite liberally. Gardeners who found Hosta seed growing in their garden considered themselves Hosta breeders...I think not. In reality, there turned out to only be a small handful of breeders actually making Hosta crosses in the entire country. This is in sharp contrast to the daylily world, where everyone who grows daylilies is a daylily breeder. To avoid having 50,000 varieties, many of which are undistinguishable, I have strongly promoted my 10 foot rule of breeding. If a new plant cannot be recognized by name from a similar looking plant already in the trade, it should be discarded. Obviously, for this to happen, breeders need to have a good familiarity with existing varieties.

What is the future of hostas? The future of Hostas is unlimited...both the exposure and the breeding possi-



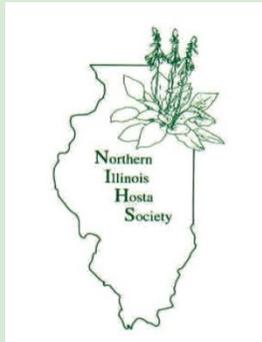
Hosta 'Victory' (Zilis, 2002) is the American Hosta Growers Association's Hosta of the Year for 2015. It is a sport of *nigrescens* 'Elatior' which is known for its beautiful, upright vase-like form. 'Victory' is classified as a giant hosta with a leaf size of 10 inches wide and 14 inches long. 'Victory' has lovely heart-shaped, shiny, medium-green leaves with creamy yellow margins and prominent vein furrows. Its heavy leaf substance helps it be sun and slug resistant. Victory forms a broad 46-inch-wide mound and grows to 30 inches in height, with an upright shape. Tubular near-white flowers appear on tall green scapes in July or August. 'Victory' is Hosta of the Year 2015!

bilities. Imagine a plant that was not listed in the top 20 of the perennial popularity poll some short 15 years ago, but has been #1 for the last five years. This and there are still folks that haven't even heard of hostas. Consider red leaves and red flowers...how about Hostas with fragrant reblooming hostas, how about Hostas for hot climates such as Texas and Florida...how about slug resistant hostas? Do I think this is an exciting group of plants...you bet! From Plant Delights Nursery, Inc.

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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.

The Gardens at Niemeyer's offers annual flowers, perennials, trees and shrubs for sale and maintains extensive display gardens. Visit on the June 13 Bus Tour.



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Mary Bardens will share her garden on the June 13 Bus Tour

