



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 90

JULY 2015

2015 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **July 9-11, Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention, Dubuque, IA**
- **July 19 Hosta Garden Walk, 2-5 pm at Barbara & Jim King's in Batavia**
- **Aug 2 Hosta Garden Walk, 2-5 pm Betsy & Floyd Rogers' in Glen Ellyn**
- **August 9, 12:30-4 pm, Hosta & Companion Plant Auction, Hinsdale Community House**
- **Sept 20, 1-4 pm, Hosta Potluck, Annual Mtg, & Swap at Penny & Carl Fulkerson's in Kildeer**
- **Dec 6 Holiday Party Loc TBA**
- **Jan 2016 Winter Scientific Meeting in Naperville**
- **June 15-18, 2016 American Hosta Society Convention in St. Louis,**



Hosta 'Pandora's Box' tops the AHS popularity poll for mini hostas.

President's Letter

Are your arks built and ready to set sail for dryer climes? What a year this has been! All the moisture is making hostas jump out of the ground. Many of mine are bigger than I've ever seen them. When new ones are planted, they look rather puny by comparison to the giants that have been growing for a while.

Weather has affected NIHS events this spring and early summer as well. The first day of the Hosta Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Garden (May 30 and 31) was rainy, and both days were unseasonably cool. We had good attendance, but probably not what we would have had with better conditions. Two weeks later at Cantigny, NIHS volunteers planted 25 – 30 hostas in our garden there even as rain made the ground even muddier than it had been. These volunteers deserve a heartfelt THANK YOU from the rest of us for working so diligently in such unpleasant circumstances. Thanks to them, we now have more than 125 hostas, and a lot of companion plants, in the ground at Cantigny.

Mentioning volunteers makes me appreciate how much they do for NIHS. We are blessed to have so many people who contribute to what we do. I'm thinking of those who offer their homes for our events, others who help out at those events, members who bring in leaves for the display and CBG or offer to staff the event, the 23 members who took training to be volunteers and *continued next page*



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President's Letter *continued*

work at Cantigny, garden walk hosts, donors of plants for the auction, the board members who plan our programs and help bring them to fruition, and everyone else who pitches in to help out. It's wonderful to work with all of you. I am awed by your conscientiousness and dedication to what we do.

Next on the NIHS schedule are our Hosta Garden Walks. First up is Cappy Johnston's magnificent garden in **Lake Forest on June 28.** Unfortunately it will be over by the time you receive this newsletter, but those who have been there say it is not to be missed. I hope you were able to get there. **On July 19 you are invited to come to the King home in Batavia,** where you will see a very different garden. But we have almost finished removing all the weeds that have been encouraged by the dampness, so everything will look shipshape. Jim's tree and mini-hosta collections will be on display, as will the rest of our nearly 500 hostas and whimsical hardscape. VP Mark Rekoske is on the verge of securing a third garden tour for August 2. We will keep you posted.

The annual NIHS fundraising auction is set for **Sunday, August 9,** at Hinsdale Community House. Mark Zilis will once again be the auctioneer. Like last year, we will also have some great items for the raffle, and there will be side sales--\$5 plants, Mark Zilis' books, plant markers, maybe more. For the auction itself, we always have lots of super hostas and other plants contributed by both members and vendors. This is a very important event for NIHS because it provides our only income other than dues. So be sure to come and join the fun. Be there early so you can check out the plants being offered, and then buy lots of them.

Plans for the Annual Meeting in September are still up in the air. We are working to finalize them and will include the details in the next newsletter.

Enjoy your summer, and I hope to see you soon.

Barbara

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our new hostaphiles!

- * Gary & Becky Blauser, Batavia
- * Barb & John Figlewicz, Palatine
- * Gunhild Metzger, Hillside
- * Heide Metzger, Hillside
- * Susan Ochenschlager, Sugar Grove
- * Roselynn Roseman, Highland Park



In Memoriam

The NIHS expresses its deepest sympathy to Lorel and Gary Abrell, whose son Cass died recently after his battle with cancer.

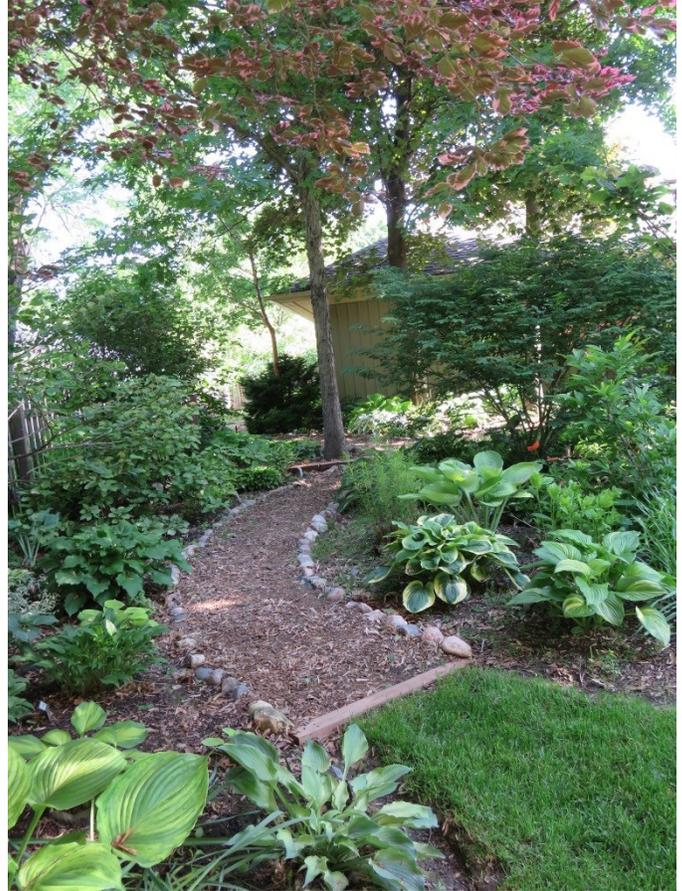
HOSTA HAPPENINGS

July 19 Hosta Garden Walk Preview in Batavia

When the Kings moved into their home in 1978, landscaping consisted of the lawn, yews in front of the house, and a row of Royal Standard hostas on each side of the entry courtyard. Jim added trees and shrubs. Barbara's interest in gardening emerged in 2000 when she began to create areas of colorful annuals and perennials in the sunny back yard. Then a friend gave them divisions of several hostas & Jim and Barbara soon realized how much they liked these plants, and the acquisitions began. Hostas became the garden's centerpiece.

The back yard is now devoted primarily to hostas and companion plants arranged in a series of "islands" around an ever-diminishing "sea" of grass. Winding paths meander through the hosta areas revealing unique trees--ginkos, dogwoods, shagbark and Montpelier maples and others—plus some whimsical garden ornaments. Most flowers are now in the sunnier front yard, but even there, hostas have taken over the shady spots. Those Royal Standards, still going strong after more than 37 years encircle the fern leaf beech by the driveway.

The mini hosta bug bit Jim a few years ago, and he now grows dozens of them, some in the ground and many in pots. He is also drawn to streaked hostas, of which he has a fairly sizable collection. Barbara's favorites include brightly variegated, deep green and



ruffled varieties. Barbara & Jim work together to integrate their selections into their garden in a way that illustrates and contrasts the range of color, size, variegation, growing habit, and other special features of these amazing plants.

DIRECTIONS TO THE KING GARDEN AT 1178 CHILLEM DRIVE, BATAVIA:

FROM THE NORTH: *From the intersection of IL 59 & IL 64 in West Chicago take IL 64 west 4 miles, turn left at the light at Kirk Rd (just past the Charestowne Mall), continue 5 miles on Kirk Rd to Chillem Drive (first street after the light at Pine). Turn right on Chillem, continue to 1178 Chillem on the left. Park on the street.*

FROM THE SOUTH: *From I-88, take Farnsworth exit north for 3 miles (name changes to Kirk Rd. at Butterfield, Rt. 56) to the light at Pine Street (you will have passed Chillem, but no left turn is permitted going north). Turn left onto Pine, go one block and turn left again onto Woodland Hills Road. Continue to stop sign at Chillem, turn right to 1178 Chillem on the left. Park on the street.*



Join the Fun at the NIHS Auction Sunday August 9

The Community House, Hinsdale

Our annual NIHS auction, plant sale and raffle is our only annual fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success. Mark your calendar for Sunday August 9 from 12:30 to 4 pm. Please come & support the NIHS and have fun bidding for plants that may be difficult to find elsewhere. Some extraordinary bargains are also a possibility. Mark Zilis will serve as auctioneer. Bidding will be friendly but fast-paced and things could get exciting. Again this year there will be a sale of many plants at low fixed prices for our bargain hunters, a fun raffle with some mature hostas and other items as prizes. We will also have a number of Kincaid stainless steel garden markers for sale. Mark Zilis' books will also be available.

Last year was one of the best auctions ever; we grossed over \$3,700 in sales. Let's keep it going this year. The auction will be held at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St in Hinsdale from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Arrive at 12:30 pm** to donate your plants, register to bid and choose the plants you will want to bid on.

We need your donations of potted plants (hostas and companion plants) to be delivered by about 12:30 pm to the Community House. We are looking for good quality pest & disease-free plants that you would be happy to have in your garden, especially newer varieties or hard to find older plants. Dig up the plants this week so they look good for the auction.



Here are some other ways to help make the auction a success:

- ◆ bring a non-member friend to the auction
- ◆ copy this page and share with your gardener friends and plant club members

Driving Directions: From Ogden Ave/IL 34 in Hinsdale turn South on York Road which turns into Garfield Ave and continue to Eighth St. Turn Right to the Community House.



*Scenes from
2014 Auc-
tion Above
and Left*



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CANTIGNY GARDEN?

So far this year NIHS volunteers at Cantigny have put in four workdays during which they performed a major clean-up of our garden site, and planted 50 hostas plus several companion plants. Daffodils and scilla are gone, replaced by fine looking hostas from Tom Micheletti, Jeff Miller, and several members. Cantigny has contributed and planted more than 50 companion plants.

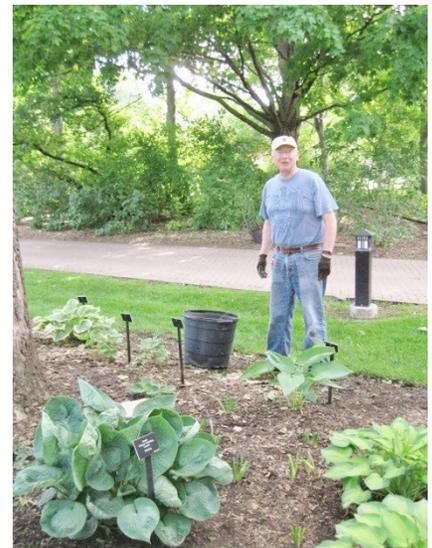
We are in the process of setting up a maintenance schedule for the remainder of the summer, with volunteers going in at least once every two weeks to make sure the plants are healthy and the area looks its best. Newly acquired plants will also be put in the ground as they are received. Discussions will begin soon with Cantigny staff regarding next steps to be taken, including paths, signage, and ornamentation. Stay tuned!

Let's give credit where it's due. The following NIHS volunteers have helped at one or more of the workdays so far this year:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Judi Asselborn | James King | Janet Simpson |
| Ron Asselborn | Tony Kwiatowski | Nancy Slove |
| Colleen Graudins | Mike Kraus | June Vandervest |
| Lou Horton | Kerry Perry | |
| Sherrie Hughes | Betsy Rogers | |
| Barbara King | Floyd Rogers | |



Several NIHS Volunteers at Cantigny clockwise from top: Barbara King, Nancy Slove, & Janet Simpson, Floyd & Betsy Rogers, Mike Kraus, & Judi & Ron Asselborn



New Nematode Control Product GOOD NEWS!!!

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH NEMATODES that quickly render hostas unsightly in late July or thereabouts, a new product is available to control them. NemaKill is an organic substance that has proven to be 100 % effective against them, according to information in the latest issue of The Hosta Journal. Originally developed for agricultural use, its effectiveness against the foliar nematodes that affect hostas was tested as part of a research project supported by the American Hosta Society with donations from local societies including NIHS.

NemaKill is not yet commercially available in northern Illinois. The distributor, Cisco Systems, is working on that; however, there is another option. Representatives of the company that developed NemaKill were at the recent AHS convention in Raleigh where, as you might expect, there was considerable interest in it. As a result, Cisco has been authorized to sell direct to AHS members for what may be a limited period of time.

NIHS is prepared to order a case, or more depending on your response, that will offer savings on shipping. The price per quart is \$75, and it will spray one acre. If you have ever lost or discarded hostas because of severe nematode damage, consider the cost of replacing them, and NemaKill may look like a good investment.

TO ORDER: Contact Barbara King at bhk430@att.net. Cost will be \$75 each, plus shipping—probably about \$2. **PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 10.**



Mentors Wanted

Making NIHS More Welcoming

The appreciation of Hostas has brought us together as members of NIHS. To encourage new members to feel welcome and get more involved in the society's projects, we would like to gather the names of people who would be willing to act as Mentors. New members will be matched to Mentors based on geography and/or preferences. As a Mentor you will befriend a new member/couple for their first year by

- welcoming them to NIHS,
- inviting and meeting them at NIHS events,
- answering questions
- introducing them to other members

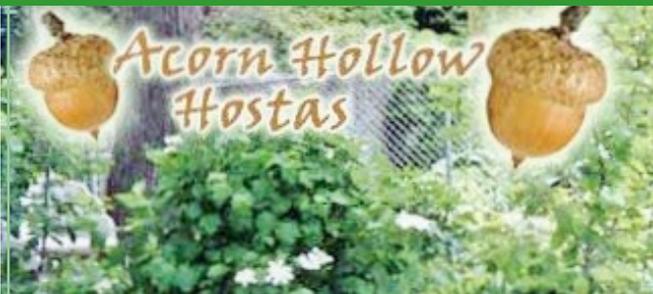


This will allow us to be proactive in meeting and greeting new members at garden walks and other activities like the Hosta Auction in August and our other yearly events. By getting to know our membership better, we can better serve their needs. Some people come for the opportunity to learn more about Hosta plants in general, to answer specific questions, or just for the camaraderie of like-minded people. If you are interested in being a Mentor, please contact me at: junevandervest@comcast.net. June Vandervest



WANTED: WEBMASTER

We need you if you are interested in learning how to maintain and update our NIHS website. It's important to have more than one person available who has website experience or is willing to learn. Contact Mike Kraus at NI.hosta@gmail.com or (815) 356-8569.



In 2015 I will offer 20+ hosta cultivars grown here for four years but never offered before by me. My 2015 Hosta Sale 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 opportunities this year and next for members to host an NIHS event at their homes: our fun Holiday Gathering in early December, the Spring 2016 Potluck and The Annual Meeting, Potluck and Plant Swap in September 2016. 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!

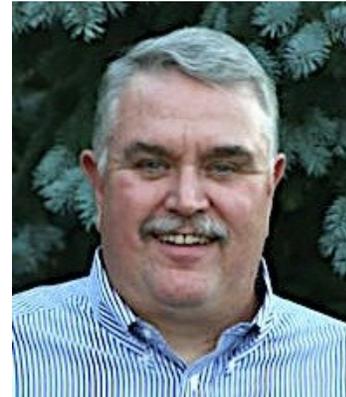
Visitors welcome! We're located

35 miles southwest of Chicago.

www.contrarymarysplants.com
(815) 521-9535

Let's Talk Hostas

By Tom Micheletti



This past spring has been a roller coaster ride as far as weather is concerned, but then again this is the Chicago area, and you know the old sage, “if you don’t like the weather in Chicago, just wait a minute and it will change”! April was a dry month in terms of moisture, but the temperatures were pleasant with very few night time frosts to damage the emerging hostas. May made up for it in the rain department and was a wet month. The talk at the show at the Chicago Botanic Garden the end of May was how lush the hostas were because of all the rain. As I write this in early June we are still receiving some rain. The temperatures have changed however and the days are getting warmer. I’m sure the heat will come on and the rains will cease in time however. If the rains don’t continue it’s up to us gardeners to keep our hostas pumped full of moisture by watering. Otherwise they will start to show signs of moisture stress. The leaf edges will begin to brown, and leaves will droop. So if you want that lush look to continue keep watering.

By the way, the slugs also love this moisture. Have we discussed slugs recently? If you haven’t started your slug program, it’s not too late. Once you see all those holes in the leaves it will take a lot more effort to get slug populations under control. For more info go to my website www.hostapatch.com for the complete article “That Thug the Slug”.

Good soil preparation will go a long way to keeping hostas lush looking all summer long. The more organic matter incorporated into the soil the better. In my opinion you can’t put too much organic matter in our soils. Some of us in northern Illinois are blessed (?) with heavy clay soils. While others are blessed (?) with gravelly soils. In either case organic matter will go a long way to improve the soil in your

garden. There’s another article on my website “Soil Amending & Planting of Hostas”. The hole dug for a hosta doesn’t have to be deep, as the roots don’t grow that deep, only about the depth of a shovel, for a larger hosta, but the hole should be as wide as the hostas is expected to grow. Improving the soil with organic matter that the hostas grow in will help them become established quicker, hold moisture longer, and reduce the amount of fertilizing needed.

Oh by the way, the weeds have also loved all this rain. In April I thought I had a good start on controlling weeds, but all of the rain in May produced a bumper crop of weeds, so I’d better quit here and go out and weed the garden!

Hosta ‘Azure Waves’ - a Hosta Patch introduction with wavy edged heart shaped blue-green leaves. Lavender flowers appear in July.



Plan on Aug 2 Hosta Garden Walk Preview in Glen Ellyn

Betsy and Floyd Rogers have lived in this home in Glen Ellyn for 40 years. The gardens have been added, developed, modified and tended for the last 25 of those years after Floyd discovered Hostas. There are currently over 300 varieties scattered over 17 beds with unusual other biota interspersed. Paperbark Maple, Bur Oak, multiple Ligularia, Acanthus, Clematis, Hellebores, Hemerocallis and Martagon varieties, Tri-color Beech, Sycamore Maple, Forest Pansy Redbud and more. Come, and bring your camera and a friend. Garden open 2 - 5 pm.

Driving Directions: From I-355, IL Hwy 83 or I-294 exit at Roosevelt Rd (IL Hwy 38) and proceed west about 1.1 miles beyond I-355. Turn left onto S Park Blvd and go



south for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto Glen Valley Dr and proceed east for 0.3 mile to 22W213 Glen Valley Dr on your right. Parking is not permitted on Glen Valley so continue to the next block and turn left onto Sheffield Rd for street parking.





Hosta Shopping at Woldhuis Sunrise Greenhouse. Above - Heidi Metzger, Faith Campbell, Gunhild Metzger (seated), Arlene Solyom & Bruce Solyom.

Right- Lynn Walsh & Sue Welker show off their purchases.

Top Right - Faith Campbell pauses to greet the photographer.



Clockwise From Above Right - Mark Rekoske flanked by garden hosts Peggy Sierzputowski (left) & Mary Bardens ; Hosta tourists relaxing on the Bardens' front porch; Quartet admiring Hosta Sum & Substance - Betty Pozzi, Jami Flaws, Brenda Cramer, & Natalie Passano; Mary Bardens showing off her H. 'Guardian Angel'.

Ron Asselborn photos



Bus Trip Gardens Highlights

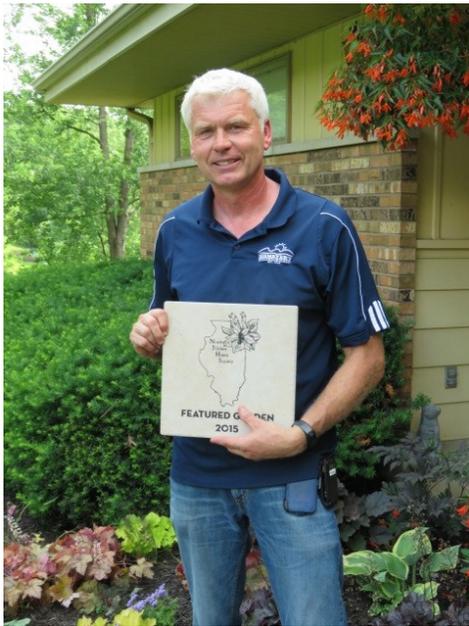
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Clockwise from Top Right: Brenda Cramer is happy with her freshly dug H. 'Empress Wu' at Fox Hosta Farm; Hostaphiles outstanding in their field ; Jim King negotiating a special plant purchase with owner Greg Fox; Wayne Gruber (blue shirt) leading a tour of his Gardens at Niemeyer's nursery; Shady pavilion for purchasing hostas and catching snacks at Niemeyer's.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Bus Trip Gardens Highlights continued



Clockwise from Top Left - Homeowner Ginny Feyes describes her chamaecyparis to Mark Rekoske; Billie Childress revering the hostas; group shares a light moment upon entering Wayne Gruber's lakeside garden; Jami Flaws & Rosemary Sievern comparing notes in the Feyes backyard; a hosta hillside in Wayne Gruber's garden; Wayne Gruber proudly displays his NIHS memorial tile. Wayne generously hosted the entire entourage for refreshments as the final stop of our tour.



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Back To Basics: Hosta Fact Sheet

By Bob Solberg, 3rd 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

21. Hostas grow larger year after year. All hostas have a maximum size based on their genetic composition but hosta clumps do tend to increase in the number of shoots year after year. After, maybe a decade some hostas will only produce shoots from the edge of the crown, leaving a “fairy ring”.

Some older hosta clumps start to wander around the garden, opening up, looking more like a forest than a tree. I do think there are limits to growth, but they are dependent on changes in the garden environment and the enthusiasm of the gardener.

22. Hostas have interesting names. All horticultural plants have “fancy” names given by their originators. There are over 8,000 hos-

tas with names that we have recorded and really many more in hybridizer’s gardens across Hostadom. I do not know if any other plant has such interesting and entertaining names, so much so that many hostas are purchased for the name alone. There are song names, food names, names of friends, and somewhat risqué names. Great names make for great hostas. Just look



Hosta ‘First Blush’

at the “mouse mania” that the name ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ has generated.

23. Hostas have interesting flowers. Hostas are not grown for their flowers, but some should be. There are of course fragrant flowers that fill our August evenings in the garden with delight. There are a few double flowers, too, more curiosities for me than anything else. Now hostas are beginning to have flowers with different colored stripes, dark purple, red, and black. Yellow and blue flowers have been reported too. Soon you may be buying hostas for their unusual flowers as well as the pretty foliage, believe it or not.

24. Hosta hybridizing is fun and easy. It can be, but it can be difficult and frustrating, too. Hosta seeds are easy to germinate and grow into nice little plants. Some hostas set seed easily, but usually the ones you really want to set are obstinate. If you want to give hosta hybridizing a try, cross a blue hosta with a yellow hosta. The result will be green, blue and yellow seedlings. Streaked hostas make good

pod parents, yielding variegated prod-

gy. You can even sow the seeds in the garden in the fall and they will jump out of the ground in the spring. Give it a try, it really is fun.

25. Hostas are red, too. The quest is on for red hostas. We now have hostas with completely red or purple petioles and scapes. *Continued next page*

Back To Basics: Hosta Fact Sheet

continued

There are hostas with purple up the midrib into the middle of the leaf and even a little red on the leaf margin.

The ultimate goal is to have hostas with red leaves that stay red. They are coming, I can't wait.

26. Hosta collecting is addicting. If you are reading this little newspaper, then you are either enjoying the hosta high, trying to collect in moderation, or have quit this week for the umpteenth time. Hosta collecting creates a positive feeling in a world of negativity. It is a good thing. Just stay positive and don't spend all the grocery money.

27. Hostas come with friends. Hostas have been correctly called the "Friendship Plant". Some of the best friends that I have found their way to me because of our mutual interest in hostas. Some I have pursued and some have chosen me, but with all, our relationship goes much farther than just the plant. It may be because we met under the therapeutic effect of hostas in a shady garden.

Hosta 'Smiley Face'



28. Hostas are our friends. I believe there is a spiritual relationship between hostas and humans. We really do love them in some magical way. We share our lives with them, the joys

of spring, the stress of summer, the sadness of autumn, and the hope-filled dreams of winter. They are friends that give back more than they take. They make us feel good about ourselves.



Hosta 'Ambrosia'

29. Hostas emerge magically in the spring. No one can argue that this is the number one reason we grow hostas. For three or four weeks in the spring, hostas entrance us. We get caught up in the spirit of spring renewal, freshness and purity, resurrection. Hostas more than any plant I know relish in this explosion of rebirth. Picture a seven foot clump of 'Sum and Substance' expanding rapidly enough to make a full clump from bare soil in 2-3 weeks. You can almost watch it grow. And when those huge leaves begin to unfurl, goose bumps will run up and down your spine.

In spring we all do the hosta dance, running to the garden two, three or more times a day, looking for new shoots. We count the eyes and calculate the profit. We help the minis emerge by removing a leaf or that extra mulch we gave them as a blanket for winter. We suffer when *continued next page*

Hosta Leaf Show a Hit at Chicago Botanic Garden

Rain and unseasonably cool temperatures did not keep hosta lovers away from the NIHS Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Garden on May 30 and 31. Traffic through the site was constant both days, and visitors enjoyed looking at what might have been a record number of member-supplied hosta leaves including those from classic cultivars as well as the latest introductions. NIHS member-vendors Tom Micheletti and Jim Morrow did a brisk business. Several people enhanced their hosta knowledge at seminars presented by Tom and Lou Horton. When votes were counted Sunday after-

noon, winning leaves in the People's Choice contest were **(1) Orange Marmalade, (2) Clifford's Stingray, and (3) a tie between Wheee! and June Fever.**

Many thanks to all the NIHS member-volunteers who brought in leaves, helped with setup and takedown, and made themselves available to answer questions about hostas. To try to name everyone would ensure leaving someone out, but please know that your contributions were very much appreciated. Thanks also to the vendors and seminar presenters, whose participation is an important part of this event.

Special thanks to Nancy Bodinet, the event chair, for her hard work to make the display a success. *Barbara King*

See pictures & additional coverage on following page.



Hosta 'June'

Back To Basics: Hosta Fact Sheet

continued

a twig pokes a hole in a perfect leaf. We wander out into the garden and are lost for hours, transported to hosta heaven.

Maybe we wish that we could be like hostas and have a fresh start every year. On New Year's Eve we like to think we have that magical power reserved for immortals, but by February we realize that we all carry the past into the future. Then comes March and April and we do the hosta dance and it is another year of hope in the garden. Last summer seems years away. This is why we grow hostas, first to share their joy and their confidence in the future and second to share it with each other.

30. Hostas are supposed to be fun!!! We live in a critical world. We see the glass half empty more than half full. We see the slug holes in our hostas and not the perfect leaves. We abandon old favorites for the newest hosta sport that appears on-line. We are uncomfortable in a world that moves too fast. All time slows down in the shade garden when we look and listen to what the hostas have to say. Life, yes, is filled with disappointments but hope springs eternal. Happiness is really contentment, accepting our circumstances. The hostas know this better than we do as they sit patiently and peacefully in the shade. Hostas are supposed to *be fun, hosta folks, too.*

From The Green Hill Gossip 2014, part 3 of 3

Hosta Leaf Show a Hit at Chicago Botanic Garden



Above - People's Choice Winners.



Below - Jim Morrow assessing his hostas for sale. Tom Micheletti (not pictured) also sold hostas at the event.



Left - Jim King & Nancy Bodinet greeting visitors and answering questions at the Leaf Display May 30 & 31. Barbara King photos



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:

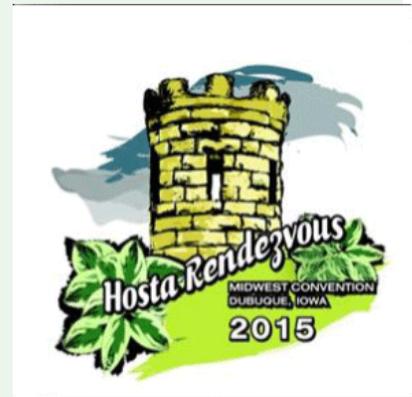
Friday - Dinner BBQ at the **Arboretum**.

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



Hosta Garden Walk at Cappy Johnston's Serene & Sophisticated



Left -Enthusiasts discuss plant characteristics in Cappy Johnston's Lake Forest Garden on June 28.

Right - Cappy answers questions from Marcia Jendreas & Colleen Graudins.



Below Left - Hosta Sum & Substance sparkles in the sunny patch.

Directly Below - Lou Horton, Pete Postlewaite, & Penny Fulkerson debate the merits of super-large hostas.



Left - Artful display of ferns and heuchera near Cappy's potting shed.

Right - Sherrie Hughes, Susan Moynihan, Tony Kwiatowski, & Sandhya Matthews debating the best of Cappy Johnston's



Hosta Garden Walk at Cappy Johnston's

Serene & Sophisticated continued



Left - Front porch vignette.



Right - This bed is not for human slumbering. The bright hosta leaves make this scene pop.



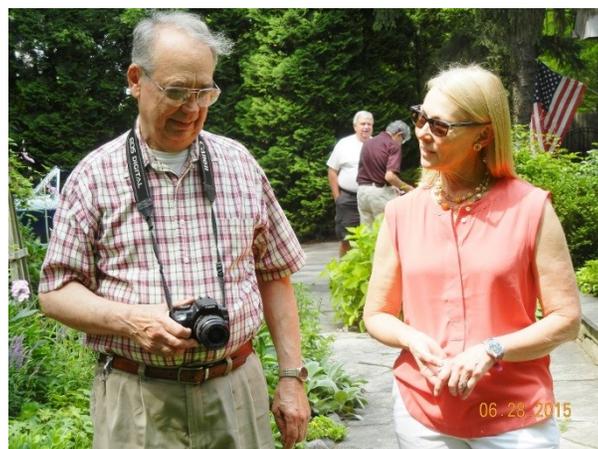
Left - Outstanding specimen of Hosta 'Dancing Queen'.



Right - Appreciating Cappy's raised mini bed.



Left - Sam & Andi Solomon comparing notes with Penny Fulkerson.



Right - John Van Ostrand discussing hosta origins with host Cappy Johnston.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Hosta Diseases

By Diane Plewa & Travis Cleveland

The hosta is a popular landscaping plant, loved for its beautiful variety of foliage, and ease of cultivation. Around this time, delicate purple or white flowers develop before frost. Below are some of the most prevalent pathogens on hosta in Illinois.

Foliar nematodes

The University of Illinois plant clinic has received several hosta samples damaged by foliar nematodes (*Aphelenchoides* spp). These microscopic worms infect the above-ground parts of hostas. They are able to swim through a film of water on the leaf surface of a hosta and then enter plant tissue via natural openings or wounds. Foliar nematodes that infect hosta are able to spread to other plants in drops of splashing water or by way of gardening tools. Wet conditions throughout the summer favored their spread. Symptoms of these foliar nematodes start out as water-soaked areas within parallel veins on leaves, but later these long areas can become necrotic, dark, and maybe even tattered in appearance. To control foliar nematodes remove infected leaves, reduce overhead irrigation, and sanitize garden tools. Overwintering populations of nematode can potentially be reduced by keeping mulch and plant debris away from hosta crowns.



Hosta leaves infected with foliar nematodes and showing the common symptom of interveinal brown bands. Photo University of Illinois Plant Clinic

Petiole Blight

This is a devastating fungal disease caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Under favorable conditions, the pathogen can rapidly take-over and defoliate an otherwise healthy hosta. It was previously named Hosta Crown Rot, but was renamed due to the fact that the pathogen attacks the petiole while the plant's crown remains unharmed.

This pathogen is particularly devastating because of its ability to survive in the soil and on the soil surface from several months to years. Survivability is attributed to the tough, mustard seed-like overwintering structures, known as sclerotia. The pathogen becomes active during warm, humid weather at which point the sclerotia germinate and tufts of white mycelium fan out over the soil surface. When the fungus comes in contact with a host, it releases oxalic acids that break-down plant cell walls and tissues. On hostas, symptoms begin as wilting and discoloration of lower leaves. In a short time the upper leaves also wilt; and close inspection shows a soft, brown rot of the base of petioles. The entire leaf soon collapses above the site of infection.

Prevention and sanitation are important for disease control. *continued next page*



Left - Collapsed hosta petioles are covered in white mycelium of Sclerotium rolfsii at the base : Right: Base of infected hosta petiole with the small, round, tan to brown sclerotia of Sclerotium rolfsii. Diane Plewa photo.

Hosta Diseases

continued

The fungus is spread by sclerotia or by mycelium growing from the sclerotia. Contaminated nursery plants and exchange between gardeners has aided long distance spread of the disease. Closely inspect plants for signs of the disease before purchasing plants or accepting plants from friends and family. If you spot the disease in your landscape, remove all of the infected plant parts, placing them directly into a bag to remove them from the garden. Be careful not to spread any of the fungal mycelium or sclerotia. Do not compost diseased plants. Remove the top several inches of soil around the plant, again being careful not to spill any as you work. Unfortunately, no effective fungicides are currently available for homeowners to use. Mulch may contribute to the overwinter survival of the pathogen. Pulling mulch back from the base of plants before winter may help to kill the fungus. There are differences in levels of susceptibility among hosta cultivars, but nothing with high levels of resistance.

Hosta Virus X

Hosta virus X (HVX) is a pathogen that has plagued gardeners worldwide. As with most viruses, HVX will not kill hosta; however it can cause a number of undesirable symptoms such as: mosaics, yellowing,

Sum and Substance hosta leaf infected with HVX and showing dark mottling symptoms. Travis Cleveland photo



Fungal leaf spots on hosta. Photo by Diane Plewa.

and necrosis on the foliage. Once a hosta is infected, this virus can lurk within infected plant sap, and can easily be spread by hands and garden tools. HVX can also persist in plants for years before symptoms develop, and any plants propagated from an infected plant will also develop the disease. No controls are available once the plant has been infected. Avoid introducing the disease by purchasing disease free plants from reputable sources. Destroy any symptomatic hostas, and sanitize equipment before working with nearby healthy hosta plants.

Leaf Spots

Leaf spots are common to hosta. While they make plants less attractive, they rarely are considered to be serious diseases; although they can contribute to overall plant stress. There are many different fungi that cause foliar spots on hosta. Control methods for all of the hosta leaf spot diseases are similar, regardless of the fungal causal pathogen and infected area, as follows: overhead irrigation should be avoided, heavily infected leaves removed, and garden equipment sanitized. Protective fungicides can be applied before the disease infection takes place. These chemicals are especially useful for plants that were previously affected by fungal leaf spots in the past.

Continued next page

Hosta Diseases

continued

Abiotic Problems

Like all plants, hosta is susceptible to sunscald and drought stress. Slugs can also be major pests of hosta. Hosta plants prefer moist, well-drained soils. Depending on the variety, they will do well in a range of full shade to full sun (though most favor partial shade). Stressed plants tend to develop diseases more frequently than unstressed ones, so reducing stress and increasing plant vitality can be a powerful tool to prevent disease development in your garden.

Reprinted from September 23, 2014 **University of Illinois Extension, Home Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter**

*A bed of hostas stressed by sunscald and disease.
Photo by Diane Plewa*



CHICAGOLAND DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, July 18, 2015

10:00 am - 4 pm

The Daylily Flower Show will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Hundreds of colors and flower types of both older and new cultivars will be displayed for your comparison and appreciation. Daylilies are easy and carefree additions to your sunny garden areas.

In the Sycamore Room, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL



AHS Convention In Raleigh, NC Highlights



Above - Amelia Lane's front garden under the pines.



AHS Conventioneers met in Raleigh, NC in June to indulge in all things hosta. The convention was hosted by Bob & Nancy Solberg who executed their plans precisely. However Mother Nature poured out 100 degree heat to wilt some of the enthusiasm during the outdoor garden visits and evening picnic.

As expected, plant sales were extremely popular. Mark Rekoske reported his inability to enter the Thursday vendor sales room due to the crush of humanity. Mark returned at a saner time but to slimmer pickings. The visit to Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery & extensive botanical gardens was a real treat. *Ron Asselborn*



Picture Top Right - 'Hostas in pots' was a recurring theme. Hostas grow better protected from varmints and roots in North Carolina. Above - stunning H. 'Sunpower' was appropriate for the weather conditions.



Above - Lush Zone 6 & 7 plants adorn this southern garden enjoyed by the hostaphiles. Hostas hid in the shadows.

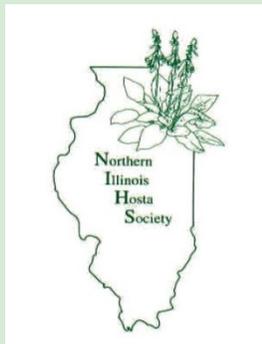
Left - This serene & ascetic moss garden demonstrates how 'less is more'. The homeowner maintains this garden with a blower instead of a mower.



NIHS Membership Secretary

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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 hosta 'Hollywood Lights' and other stars of the King garden on the Hosta Garden Walk on July 19.



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Hosta 'Ginsu Knife' in the King garden

