



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 91

SEPTEMBER 2015

2015 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Sept 20 , 1-4 pm, Hosta Potluck, Annual Mtg, & Swap at Penny & Carl Fulkerson's in Kildeer**
- **Dec 6 Holiday Party at Judi & Ron Asselborn's in Campton Hills**
- **Jan 16, 2016 Winter Scientific Meeting in Naperville**
- **June 15-18, 2016 American Hosta Society Convention in St. Louis, MO**
- **July 7-9, 2016 Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention in Champaign, IL**



Auctioneer Mark Zilis in action - see pg. 10

President's Letter

Another busy year for NIHS is winding down.

It seems like just a few weeks ago that we were enjoying our first 2015 gathering, the Spring Pot Luck hosted by Jan and Earl Smith on March 22 at their lovely new home at Windsor Park in Carol Stream. A month later Craig Kruckenberg, Horticulture Manager at Cantigny Park, talked to us about the history of the park and our plan for the hosta garden there that we hope will one day be designated an AHS National Display Garden. Then, in rapid succession, came the NIHS Leaf Display at Chicago Botanic Garden, our annual bus trip—this time to northwestern Indiana with several buying stops along the way, three hosta garden walks, and a very successful auction. In between these events, several members attended the AHS and Midwest Regional conventions, and twenty NIHS volunteers worked many hours at the Cantigny garden.

Our final summer event, coming up on September 20, is the Annual Meeting, Pot Luck and Plant Swap. Even though it is our only business meeting of the year, there will be fun for everyone, too. Penny and Carl Fulkersons' beautiful home and garden provide the perfect setting in which to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by excellent NIHS cooks, visit with old friends, tour the garden and swap plants. We will try to keep the continued next page



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President's Letter continued

business meeting short, but members will be encouraged to voice their ideas and concerns. Other important tasks are to approve a budget for next year and elect officers. See more details further on in this newsletter. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

In every newsletter, we list the names of new members who have joined us since the last edition. I encourage longer-term members to introduce yourselves when you see them, and make them feel welcome. Many of them have readily joined in our activities and events, especially the bus trip, garden walks, and auction. Others might want to take advantage of our new Mentoring Program. If any of our new people have questions about NIHS or what we do, and a mentor might help, contact June Vandervest at junevandervest@comcast.net.

The board would be delighted to have more new people get involved in what we do. Please let us know if you would be willing help out with an event—like the ones mentioned above --or to consider a leadership position in the society. (Long-time members can do that, too!) Maybe you would like to be a volunteer at the Cantigny garden. Those of us who help out there enjoy the experience of working with NIHS colleagues to create something beautiful. There is always plenty to do and more help is always welcome. If any of this appeals to you, contact me at bhk430@att.net.

As we conclude our season, my sincere thanks to everyone who has made it a success. It would take nearly a whole newsletter to thank everyone individually who helped with a specific task, from Cantigny volunteers to board members, but everyone who has contributed needs to understand how important her/his role is and how much it is appreciated. I've loved working with every one of you.

Barbara



New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our new hostaphiles!

- * **Barry Ankney & Penelope Bocelli, Washburn**
- * **Scott & Nancy Fanciullo, Lake Zurich**
- * **Stacey Forand, Naperville**
- * **Linda Hefferin, St. Charles**
- * **Ross & Andrea Heim, Kildeer**
- * **Cindy Hennessy, Naperville**
- * **Nancy Huck, Bensenville**
- * **Rebecca Kamysz, Bolingbrook**
- * **Gordon Sisson, Kildeer**
- * **Gail Uphoff, Villa Park**



Join the NIHS by contacting Mike Kraus, Membership Chairman, 6311 Carrie Ct, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 with your check for \$20. Please include your name(s), address, phone #, and current email address.

Family membership dues are \$20 for 2 years includes email versions of 4 newsletters.

Email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com. Call Mike @ 815-356-8569. Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org.

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Have Fun in the Fall @ Hosta Potluck, Meeting, & Plant Swap

Sunday, September 20, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Penny and Carl Fulkerson have once again opened their lovely home and garden in Kildeer for an important NIHS event, the ***ANNUAL MEETING, POT LUCK AND PLANT SWAP***. Mark your calendar, noting that the date is a week later than announced in earlier newsletters. Here is how the afternoon will unfold:

- 1:00 - 1:30pm Visit with NIHS friends (Fun time)
- 1:30 - 2:15 Lunch (Yummy fun time)
- 2:15 - 3:00 Business meeting to report on the year's accomplishments, approve the 2015 -16 budget, and elect officers and directors. (Serious time, but important so NIHS can keep going)
- 3:00 Plant swap followed by garden tour (More fun time)



Our gracious hosts will provide the main dish, beverages, and tableware. Everyone else should bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. Please contact NIHS Hospitality Chair **June Vandervest by September 18 at junevandervest@comcast.net or 630-852-2940** to let her know you will be coming and what you will bring (so we can head off a situation with 17 salads/side dishes and 2 desserts).

The annual meeting is our only business meeting of the year. As you can see, it is mainly fun with a little bit of business thrown in. It is an opportunity for members to have input on what the Society does, and what it should do differently. Your participation is important and very much wanted. And you won't want to miss seeing if Barbara can make Alphabet Soup again!

If you want to participate in the Plant Swap, bring any plant (doesn't have to be a hosta!) or plants that were potted at least a week before the meeting so that they will have had some recovery time. You may choose as many plants in the swap as you put into it.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 20!

Directions to the Fulkerson home at 21076 Oak Knoll Court, Kildeer: Take I-355/I-290/Route 53 North to Lake-Cook Road West exit. Go 0.2 miles to IL-53 North and turn right. Travel 1.1 miles, turn left onto Long Grove Road. After 1 mile, turn right onto Valley Road, then take the first left onto Oak Knoll Court. **Please park "nose in." Park only on one side of Oak Knoll Ct & one side of Valley Rd (if necessary).**

From the Rand Road (Route 12) and Route 22 intersection, proceed southeast on Rand 3.4 miles to Long Grove Road, turn left and travel to Valley Lane, turn left again and take the next left onto Oak Knoll Court.

CONGRATS TO JUNE VANDERVEST

NIHS board member June Vandervest has received a 2015 Member Award of Honor from National Garden Clubs, Inc for her outstanding service to her community. The notification letter states that June is “a person who has made a positive difference in the world. Your life-long dedication and successes have been noticed by many. National Garden Clubs, Inc. can only survive and thrive through the efforts of members like you that contribute both inside and outside of garden club....Your accomplishments are many and...stand alone as a tribute to your perseverance.”



Hosta 'June'



Last Chance - Kincaid Plant Markers Available

We still have a supply of 6 inch NP-style Kincaid stainless steel plant markers available at a small discount to our membership. Board member Colleen Gaudins will bring her remaining 6 inch NP-style Kincaid stainless steel plant markers (she has 5 bundles of 5 markers) to the Sept 20 Hosta Potluck & Annual Mtg at Penny & Carl Fulkerson's in Kildeer. **Contact Colleen at HRSColleen@aol.com or (847) 520-5607 to reserve your plant markers now.** Cost is \$5 per bundle of 5 markers. These markers are strong, do not bend or break and can be viewed at www.kincaidgardens.com.



Holiday Party - Food & Fun Sunday Dec 6

Save the Date

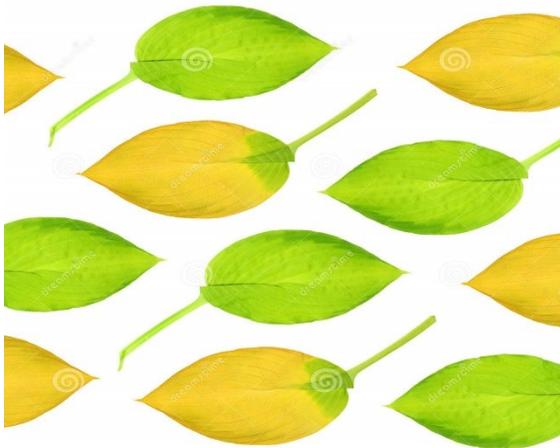
Ron & Judi Asselborn will host this year's Holiday Party in Campton Hills, near St. Charles on December 6 from 1:00 to 4:00. This is a great opportunity to enjoy great food, greet hosta friends, old and new.

Judi's holiday décor will get you into the holiday spirit!

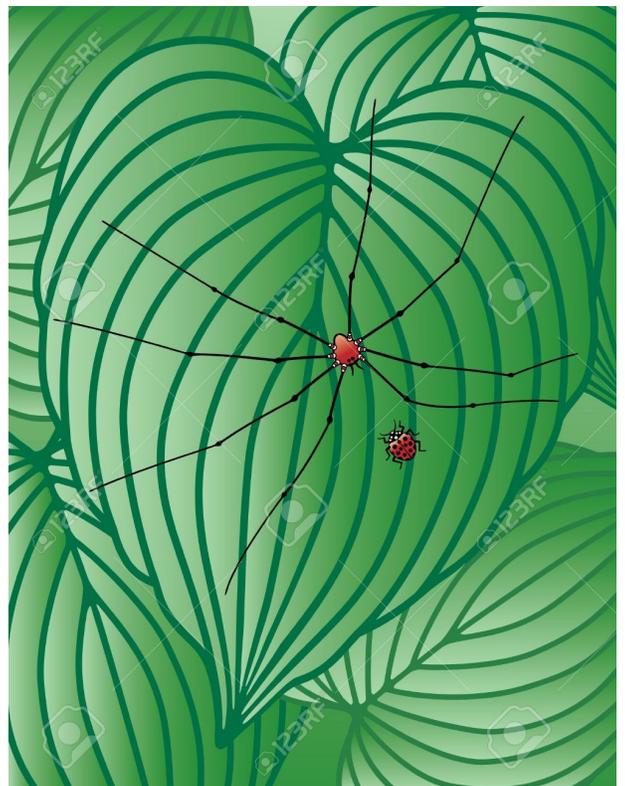
Please bring a dish to pass - an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert.

Also to help plan for the party, please RSVP to Judi by Monday Nov 30 at jasselborn5@gmail.com or (630) 587-1340.

The Asselborn's home is at 39W925 Deer Run Dr, Campton Hills. It is located 3.5 miles west of Randall Rd. & north of IL Rte 64.



Hosta Art





July Hosta
 Garden
 Walk @
 Barbara &
 Jim King's
 Gorgeous
 Garden



Top to bottom on Right: Ellen Bates with Barbara King; Jim King & Sherrie Hughes; Friends Kathy Graber, Sue Morganegg & Beth Brace; Jim King and Teddy & Howard Goldman; contemplative moment for Huoi-Zang Ying.

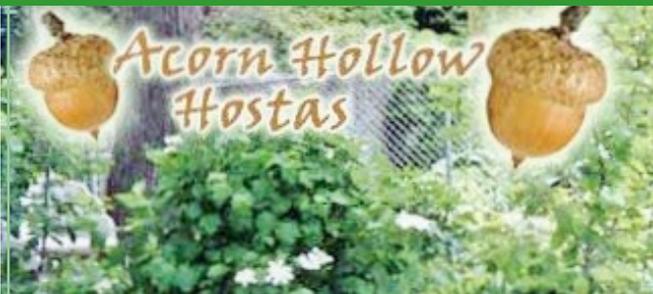


Top to bottom on Left: Spectacular liatris greeting visitors; Hat Ladies Betsy Rogers & Judi Asselborn; Katie & Mark Zilis; June Vandervest greeting Ellen Bales & Huoi-Zang Ying.



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 was Saturday May 23rd from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Other times by appointment.

**Lou Horton 1N735 Ingaltan 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 next year for members to host an NIHS event at their homes: our 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 \$100 toward the main course, place settings and beverages. 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!

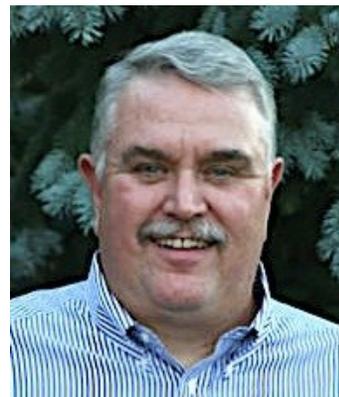
Visitors welcome! We're located
35 miles southwest of Chicago.

www.contrarymarysplants.com
(815) 521-9535

Let's

Talk Hostas

By Tom Micheletti



Well as I expected, the weather did not disappoint. This spring in northern Illinois was very wet. It rained almost every week through June, and then it dried up as I feared it might. Now as I write this in mid-August, it's drag hoses around to keep the hostas from drying up. It's actually critical to keep hostas well-watered until they go dormant. In their natural environment in the Far East, late summer/fall is when they receive a good portion of their annual moisture. If they go into dormancy too dry, crown rot may set in and they will emerge in spring smaller than they were this year. While watering from sprinklers is not ideal, it is still better than risking them shrinking over winter.

One good thing about the weather drying up is the slugs are not as numerous as earlier in the summer. If you kept up with your slug program throughout the summer your hostas should be fairly free of holes. While we may have a reprieve now, summer's not over yet and it's best to be on the alert for slug activity. Watch for their slime trails on pavement and walks. If you see these telltale signs apply more bait.

Late Aug/early Sept is when I like to divide my hostas for propagation at The Hosta Patch. One reason is I'm too busy in the spring to be dividing hostas for sale. Most people like to divide in the spring because it is easier to see the individual divisions as there are no leaves unfurled yet. While dividing them will disturb



the plants roots, they will have time to become re-established before they go dormant in

Hosta 'Earth Angel'

the fall. The soil is also still warm and this helps root establishment. One caveat about dividing this time of year many of the leaves will break off as they are more brittle now. If they break, cut them off, replant the divisions and keep them watered very well. In a few weeks new leaves will appear. No fertilizer is recommended in late summer as you don't want the plants to be in active growth too late into the fall.

When I divide plants, I dig the whole clump, wash as much of the soil off the roots as I can with a sharp spray from the hose, then try to tease the divisions apart. I look for natural division points with more space between the crowns. Some plants will cooperate and easily pull apart, but there are always those stubborn plants that are too tightly growing together. I will work the roots, teasing and pulling them apart as much as possible. On a large clump, I try to divide the plant in half first, then it usually is easier to pry smaller clumps apart. How many crowns you leave per division depends on how many plants you want. There is always a plant that doesn't want to break apart. I will then cut through the top of the crown with a sharp knife to break the bond between the crowns. I try not to cut too many roots, only the crown. Once the crown is cut it is usually easier to tease the roots apart. You may need a hose with a sharp spray to work the roots. VERY IMPORTANT! THE KNIFE SHOULD BE DISINFECTED WITH BLEACH OR ALCOHOL BETWEEN CUTS! This will help prevent the spread of undesirable pathogens.

This is probably enough activity to keep you busy till the hostas go dormant. So go out into the garden and enjoy the hostas before they are gone for winter.



Hosta Auction 2015 Highlights

Lots of happy hosta purchasers at our fundraiser on Aug 9. The Auction and additional sales netted the NIHS over \$3,100. Many thanks to the donors and bidders for a fun afternoon. Mark Zilis (green shirt) was masterful as the auctioneer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CANTIGNY HOSTA GARDEN

Thanks to the hard work of devoted NIHS volunteers, the hosta garden we are building at Cantigny Park in Wheaton has grown significantly this summer. There are 150 hostas in the ground with at least 25 more scheduled for planting before the 2015 growing season ends. Many more companion plants are now in place, too. Cantigny has provided markers for most of the hostas as well as signs at both entrances to the gardens to remind visitors that they are looking at a work in progress.

Our amazing volunteers continue to give a lot of time to this project, and they make all the difference. So far this summer they have pulled weeds, cleaned up the site, spread mulch over the whole garden, planted nearly 75 hostas plus



many companion plants, placed plant markers, and watered everything since regular rainfalls stopped in mid-July. During our eight workdays so far, twenty volunteers have put in more than 200 hours. Four more workdays are scheduled for September and October.

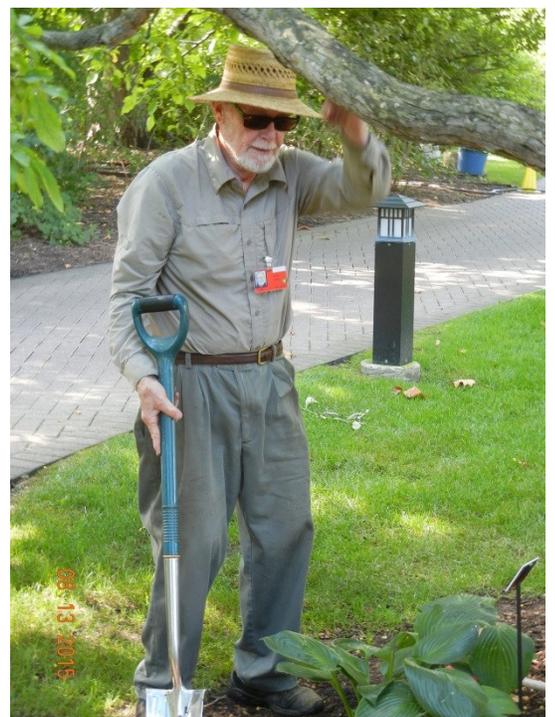
Stop by and take a look when you are in the area. You will like what you see. As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions about further development of the garden. We would also welcome your plant donations—that's how we got started! Contact Barbara King at bhk430@att.net.



Photos clockwise from top right:

June Vandervest, Mark Rekoske, & Judi Asselborn (watering) tending the garden.

Jim King planting a new hosta; Hosta 'Regal Splendor' dominates a corner of the garden; Hosta 'Blue Angel' shows off its classic form. Ron Asselborn photos on Aug 13.



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Mottled hostas: are they sick or super?

David Teager, Ph.D.

Sometime in the time of Y2K, hosta-centered internet chat forums and email chains began buzzing with commentary on the first pictures of a new kind of hosta, exemplified by *H. 'Leopard Frog'* (G. R. Goodwin, 2000, a “sport” of ‘Little Aurora’) and ‘Eternal Father’ (J. Willets, 1999, a “sport” of ‘Sun Power’). These hostas weren’t just streaky (like the coveted streaked breeding hostas) or misty (like the delicious ‘Spilt Milk’); they were downright splotchy, like an *aucuba* leaf on a hosta! The hosta world was divided: were these new hostas something we wanted in our gardens? It is difficult to assess the division in hindsight, but it seemed that there were many people at the time who did.

*Hosta "Leopard Frog"*

Soon, of course, more such “sports” appeared, and we know the rest of the sad story. These intriguing leaves were not normal,

but were showing the symptoms of a new virus, later labeled as Hosta Virus X (HVX). And while some plant viruses are relatively benign, HVX was virulent, easily transferred to other cultivars by transfer of sap between wounded leaves or roots (as could happen in field harvesting or pruning). *H. 'Sum and Substance'*, at the time taking the gardening world by storm, was sadly one of those most frequently infected.

Still, to some this mottled patterning was desirable (leaving aside those who permit HVX in their gardens because they “like” the look). Hosta people, though, are clever folk. Just as modern breeders of tulips eventually found breeding lines leading to “flame” patterned blooms—where the coveted broken colors of the tulipo-

*Hosta 'Kiwi Forest'*

mania craze were caused by a mosaic virus—perhaps the productive breeders and sport spotters of the hosta world would discover or develop non-virus hostas with the desired coloration.

In the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015, a minor buzz arose with the upload of a picture to the AHS Facebook page of *H. 'Kiwi Forest'* (B. Sligh, 1999). Rick Goodenough’s picture shows a well-grown Tokudama-type plant in springtime; the mottling is said to fade over the season to result in an all-green, somewhat glaucous, plant. From ten feet away in springtime, though, it would be difficult not to see the hosta and think: what’s up with that! Indeed, some commenters thought “sick,” while others thought “super” and raised the question where they could get it or others like it.

An internet investigation shows that ‘Kiwi Forest’ belongs to a small group of hostas listed on Don Rawson’s “The Hosta Lists” website under “Mottled-leaved Hostas.” (Do note that some on this list *are* likely infected with HVX.) *(continued next page)*

Mottled hostas: are they sick or super? *continued*

Rick later uploaded a picture of **'Wolcott'** (D. Stone/Piedmont Gardens, 1982), also on the Rawson list: a Sieboldiana-type seedling with similar coloration to **'Kiwi Forest'**, again turning all-green by summer. Most, but not all, of the mottled hostas exhibit the same color change. *This is a key difference from HVX-infected plants, which will show the same broken coloration all year long, as well as a distinctive "collapsed tissue" effect in affected regions.*

Notice that while Barry Sligh's **'Kiwi Forest'** was registered in the beginning of the HVX era (and Barry later registered some suspect infected plants with this coloration, such as **'Kiwi Dreadlocks'**), **'Wolcott'** has been around even longer. Looking deeper into Don Rawson's list of mottled hostas (see box), one sees that quite a number of these plants have been around a long time. These plants remain rare, likely because this variegation pattern is not well-expressed in the tissue culture propa-



Hosta 'Wolcott'

As well, based on reviewing the immensely helpful MyHostas.be database, it would seem that these truly mottled hostas do not readily pass on this trait to their seedlings. Only **'Cynthia'** seems to have produced any mottled progeny at all, with Ron Lysne finding **'Alliteration'** in a back-cross of **'Cynthia'** x [**'Cynthia'** x **'Piedmont Gold'**]. This seems to leave the breeder looking for an exceptionally rare mutation, and the buyer desirous of such hostas with few choices, limited to originator's stock divisions.

gation process. Rare, but not necessarily expensive per prices for listed cultivars in Steven Greene's *Hosta Finder* (2015).

This (in the author's opinion) is not a bad thing for the hosta world. For fifteen years we have been battling HVX, and educating growers and buyers about the disease is a significant part of that battle. If one of the mottled hostas successfully yielded to tissue culture propagation, these might trickle down from the specialty nursery catalogs to the regional or local garden centers, those same centers where we have worked so hard to purge stock of virus-infected **'Blue Cadet'**, **'Sum and Substance'**, *et al.*, which look—one cannot deny—no less interesting than that well-grown **'Wolcott'**. Many of us have developed a conditioned response to this mottled look, and it isn't a favorable one. Others, with no less (and perhaps more) concern for the health of their garden plants, can overcome this response and find a place this variant variegation in their gardens.



Hosta 'Sum & Substance' with HVX virus

And so the mottled hosta remains a curiosity. You may question the sanity of any gardener who chooses to grow a hosta that looks, well, sick (to you). Or you may think this is super, and wish to have such an unusual hosta in your collection, given the questions that garden visitors are likely to ask. Or you fall somewhere in-between: informed but neither repulsed nor intrigued. Beauty is, indeed, in the eye of the beholder.

Reprinted from the Delaware Hosta Society Newsletter



Hosta 'Filagree'



Photos on left from top to bottom:
 Sculpture scene in front yard;
 Floyd Rogers with his favorite yellows;
 Betsy Rogers pointing out her hellebores for digging with Kerry Perry.



**Highlights of August
 Hosta Garden Walk @
 Rogers' Garden**



Photos on right from top to bottom:
 Judi As-selborn & Sandhya Matthews relaxing and taking in the garden;
 a potful of minis;
 Floyd Rogers emphasizing his favorite - Hosta Montana Aureo-marginata;
 Driveway scene with Floyd greeting members in the shade.



All Season Hostas - What still looks good in the middle of October?

As we look around for more hostas that we don't really need or have room for, I thought this might be an interesting way to choose plants. Growing conditions in Missouri would not be that much different from northern Illinois. Red, yellow and brown leaves covered the beds in my garden. October was in full swing. Time to get out, rake, and say goodbye to my favorite plants. As I walked about I noticed a number that were still not ready to say goodbye to me.

'Touch of Class' still retains its blue tones, looking much as it did in May. Thick tri-colored leaves thwarted slugs and cutworms alike. Tom Schmid' and 'Regal Splendor', similar appearing plants, remain upright with their margins intact. Regal is a good description for both. Bringing brightness and joy to the top of a berm is 'Diva'. Being under an Oak tree canopy results in mechanical damage, but thick golden leaves resist pests. In contrast, 'Twilight Time' has leaves that become bluer and much darker as the season progresses – striking positioned next to 'Diva'. One of my favorites, 'Rainbow's End' was still putting on a show. It has incredibly variegated shiny foliage. Perhaps due to its place under a Kousa Dogwood, its center does not brighten to white.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden, 'Corkscrew' and 'Stiletto' were still blooming. Miraculously, slugs and worms had not attacked their leaves. Two others, 'Mojito' and 'Love Pat' appeared flawless. Each had retained most of their spring coloring. Spence Sorenson praised 'Sagae'. With good reason! This large, vase-shaped, variegated hosta with blue green leaves is # 1 on the AHS Popularity poll.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman mentioned 'Rainforest Sunrise' and 'Paradise Joyce' as having great staying power. Jim stated anything with 'Halcyon' parentage was good. Looking at this list he is right as many can be traced back to 'Halcyon'. Pat Payton said many of hers were doing well this year, especially 'Yellow River', 'Earth Angel', 'Unforgettable', 'June' and Mary Chastain's beautiful 'Lakeside Paisley Print'.

Most of these favorites have enough substance to resist pests such as slugs and cutworms. Their edges 'remain strong even with some sun. While their color might change it does not fade or melt out. What's looking good in your garden today? Reprinted from St. Louis Hosta Society "Shady Notes" Nov 2014, Joan Poos, Editor



Hosta 'Touch of Class'



Hosta 'Regal Splendor' (Walters Garden)



Hosta 'Diva' (O'Harra 99)



Hosta 'Rainforest Sunrise' WF



Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print' Chastain

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



Above Left: Mary Ann Brucher, Lois Junger, & Olga Swehla enjoy the llama encounter at the Junger farm. *June Vandervest photo*
Above Right: Conventioneers enjoy browsing in the Dubuque Arboretum's AHS National Hosta Display Garden.



Midwest Region Hosta Convention in Dubuque, IA in July 2015 Highlights

Four photos clockwise from above: The Wood garden was glorious and showed off their impressive hostas on the sloping hillside. The meandering paths and the 'bicycle sculpture' (below) fit naturally into the landscape. Eye candy for the hostaholic. *Ron Asselborn photos*



Midwest Region Hosta Convention in Dubuque, IA continued

Lots of opportunities for purchasing hostas - 2 of the display gardens also were growers and sellers. All the conventioners returned home with vehicles stuffed with lovely hostas.



Top 2 photos on left: The Hackbarth family farm is out in the country. They offered display gardens around their residence and a custom-dig hosta buying experience for the hosta connoisseur. Theirs is truly a multi-generation family operation.



Top 2 photos on right: Ed Schultz reigns over his hosta collection of many unique and HUGE hostas. Everyone asked Ed what his secret was - love & water and compost. Mark Rekoske & Billie Childress admire a rare one.

Below right & left: Jim's Hostas grows and sells 3,100 varieties. Jim Schwarz (below right with shovel) takes a break from digging hostas, family member on his right.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**Garden Travels ... A Visit to Savory's
Gardens** by Mike Pula

Sally and I travel to Minneapolis/St Paul regularly to visit our son and his family. Each year we try and make a point of visiting Savory's Gardens in Edina, a Minneapolis suburb. Bob and Arlene Savory started their Hybridizer/Growing business in 1946 and located it on a parcel of country side in 1947. Since then the suburbs and neighborhoods have grown up around them placing them in an unusual setting for a nursery. The business operates out of Arlene's home and yard (Bob has passed away) surrounded by residential homes. But as you enter the driveway you find tables and tables full of potted hosta and realize this is not a normal residence. Arlene says they generally have close to 900 varieties available, and their mail order business offers nearly 2,000 varieties. Since Bob's passing, Dennis, their son has taken over the operation of the business. However, it is quickly apparent that Arlene is still highly involved and loves to interact with customers. She



was more than willing to walk us through her back yard which serves as her personal garden as well as the official display

garden. Although small in area, there are numer-



Above: Hosta 'Elegans' photo by Paul Harrelson

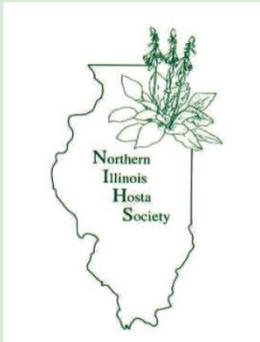
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Below: Hosta 'Golden Tiara' photo by D. Martin

display and it is easy to envision ideas for your own garden. One of her prized plants is the Elegans that she and Bob planted when they first located there in 1947. So it has been in the ground for over 65 years and looks wonderful. Bob and Arlene were avid hybridizers with dozens of registered plants. Their first was Golden Tiara. Arlene says she asks all her customers if they have Golden Tiara. She feels all true Hosta collections should include one. Bob Solberg considers the establishment of Savory's Gardens as one of the top 10 hosta events of the 20th century. Dennis is carrying on the hybridizer tradition and always has a table full of newly introduced plants they have developed. One of his recent introductions is Arlene Mae Savory named after his mother. If you have an opportunity to be in the Twin Cities, make a point to visit Savory's. Visiting with Arlene is delightful as she talks about their history and shows you around. It is located at 5300 Whiting Ave. Edina, MN. Their web site is www.savorysgardens.com. You will need to check their hours and verify that they are open. *Reprinted from GREAT EXPECTATIONS central Illinois hosta July 2015.*



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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.

Planting Fun at Cantigny -

Mark Rekoske and June Vandervest enjoying their installation of new plants in our hosta garden.



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2016 Hosta of the Year - H. 'Curly Fries'

