



Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 91A

NOVEMBER 2015

2015/2016 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Dec 6 Holiday Party at Judi & Ron Asselborn's in Campton Hills**
- **Jan 16, 2016 MRHS Winter Conference in Naperville (formerly Winter Scientific Meeting)**
- **Mar 2016 Spring Potluck and Accessory Swap to be announced**
- **May 1 Spring Symposium & Sponsor Plant Pickup at Friendship Park, Des Plaines, 1 to 3 pm**
- **June 15-18, 2016 American Hosta Society Convention St. Louis, MO**
- **June 25 Annual Bus Tour to 6 gardens in Southeast Wisconsin**
- **July 7-9, 2016 Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention in Champaign, IL**
- **Hosta Garden Walks to be announced**

Hosta 'Night Before Christmas'



President's Letter

As we enter the 2015 holiday season, let's look back at what NIHS has accomplished in 2015 through the contributions of our members.

Most impressive is the way many of you have pitched in to create the hosta garden at Cantigny. It has truly been a group effort. We began our season at Cantigny with our Spring Symposium where Craig Kruckenberg, Cantigny's Horticultural Manager, presented an overview of the park, its features, and how our garden complements them. At our last workday in October, we reached an important goal by planting our 200th hosta. Sincere thanks to all who have donated plants, worked in the garden, or helped in other ways to get to this point. Special thanks to Lou Horton, whose vision for this garden is close to becoming reality.

More members stepped up to contribute a near record number of leaves for our annual Hosta Leaf Display and Sale at Chicago Botanic Garden in late May. Many thanks to them and to all who helped, either by contributing leaves or by staffing the event. Thanks also to vendors Tom Micheletti and Jim Morrow, and to Tom and Lou for presenting seminars.

Hosta garden walks have always been

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"I've always felt that having a garden is like having a good and loyal friend."

[C. Z. Guest](#)

"A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them."

[Liberty Hyde Bailey](#)

President's Letter *continued*

our most popular events, and attendance at all three of them was up this year. Thank you for rewarding the hosts with your visits, and thanks to the hosts—Cappy Johnston in Lake Forest, Betsy and Floyd Rogers in Glen Ellyn, and Jim King in Batavia—for their hard work to prepare their gardens.

In August, for the second year in a row, our NIHS Auction fundraiser brought in more than \$3,000! Auctioneer Mark Zilis once again proved his skill at drawing out excellent prices for the hostas and other plants donated by our members and vendors. Funds raised will be used to enhance the Cantigny garden and for other projects approved by the board.

It may not fall into the WOW! category, but members' approval of new bylaws for NIHS in March was an important step forward in streamlining the way the society functions. Thank you for your support as we continue to try to update our operations.

Thanksgiving is almost here. It's the perfect time for me to tell you how thankful I am for a few other people who make such a difference to NIHS but rarely get recognized for what they do: the NIHS officers and directors. Much thankfulness from me to VP Mark Rekoske, Membership Secretary Mike Kraus, Treasurer Andy Campbell, Recording Secretary June Vandervest, Hospitality Chair Nancy Bodinet, Director Colleen Graudins, Director Gary Antonich, and Newsletter Editor Ron Asselborn. All of them are dedicated people who are absolutely great at what they do for NIHS.

My very best wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season and a happy 2016.

Barbara

MRHS Winter Conference

When: Saturday January 16, 2016

Continental Breakfast at 7:30 A.M. Conclusion at 4:30 P.M.

Where: Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Naperville, Illinois
1120 East Diehl

Road, Naperville, IL

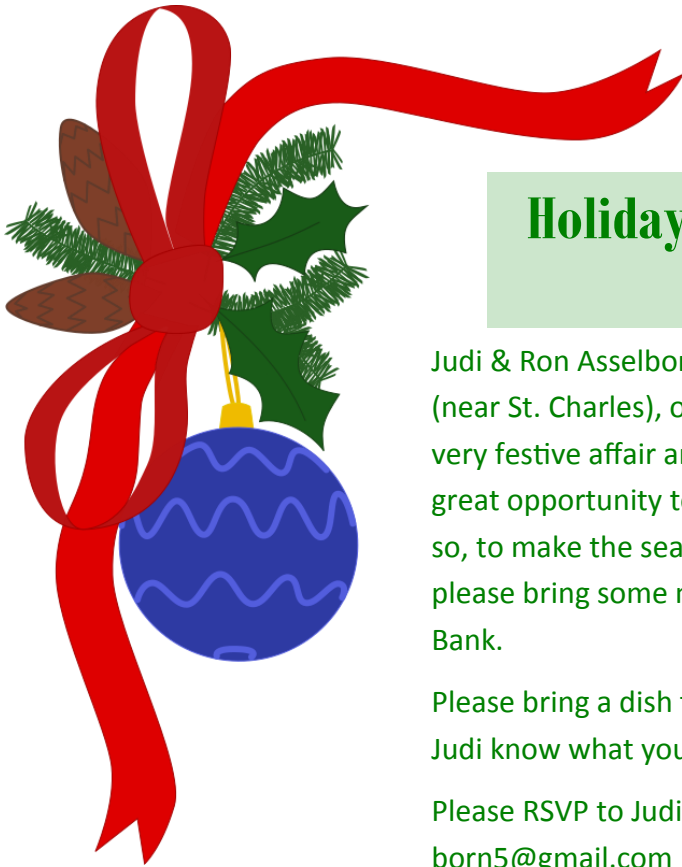
The 2016 MRHS Winter Conference (formerly the Winter Scientific Meeting) will be undergoing some improvements in addition



to a more descriptive moniker. Hospitality suites on Friday and Saturday will be provided at the host hotel Hampton Inn so attendees can visit with hosta folks from around the region.

Also new will be presentations appealing to folks who are **new to hostas** as well as programs for **experienced hosta growers and hybridizers**. For example, one of the three breakout sessions will include a presentation on basic hosta culture including fertilization, siting for the various types, dividing, pest control, etc.

We will also draw from the wealth of expertise available from U of I Extension educators more than we have in the past with several presenters new to our meeting. Fans of Bob Solberg and Mark Zilis can rest assured that they will be on hand to inform and entertain us with their hosta expertise. For more information check the MRHS website: <http://midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml>



Holiday Party - Food & Fun Sunday Dec 6

Judi & Ron Asselborn will host this year's Holiday Party in Campton Hills (near St. Charles), on **Sunday December 6 from 1:00 to 4:00**. This will be a very festive affair and we promise good weather for driving! Once again a great opportunity to enjoy great food, greet hosta friends old and new. Also, to make the season more enjoyable for our less fortunate neighbors please bring some non-perishable food items for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

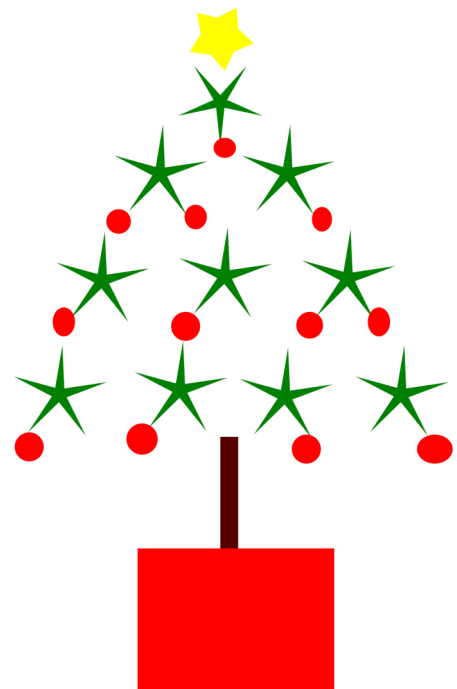
Please bring a dish to pass - an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. Let Judi know what you will bring when you RSVP.

Please RSVP to Judi by Monday November 30 at (630) 587-1340 or jasselborn5@gmail.com

Driving Directions

From North: Take I-90 west to Randall Rd Exit. Turn left onto Randall Rd and continue for 8.8 miles. Turn right onto Bolcum Rd for 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Buckskin Trail into the subdivision for 0.3 miles. Turn left to 39W925 Deer Run Dr, Campton Hills on your left.

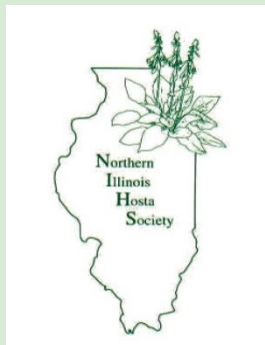
From South & West: Take I-88 west to Farnsworth Ave Exit. Turn right onto Farnsworth which becomes Kirk Rd for 3.9 miles. Turn left onto Fabyan Pkwy for 3.2 miles. Turn Right onto Randall Rd for 3.3 miles. Turn left onto IL 64 for 3.5 miles. Turn Right onto Burlington Rd for 0.3 miles. Take first Right onto Bolcum Rd for 0.6 miles. Turn Left onto Deer Run Lane, go 1 block then Turn right onto Deer Run Drive for 0.5 miles to 39W925 Deer Run Dr, Campton Hills on right.



NIHS Membership Secretary

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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.



Cantigny volunteers on a September 2015 'Work Day' are left to right Mark Meginness, Billie Childress watering, Kerry Perry, Mike Kraus, & Mark Rekoske helping out.



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Hosta 'Christmas Cookies'

