

# Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 97

MARCH 2017

## 2017 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 12, Spring Pot Luck & Garden Tool Swap, West Chicago**
- **April 29 - Sat, Spring Symposium & Plant Pickup, at the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines**
- **June 3 & 4, Hosta Leaf Display & Plant Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden**
- **June 7-10, American Hosta Society Convention, Indianapolis, IN**
- **June 18, Hosta Garden Walk #1, McHenry**
- **June 22 -25, 2017 MRHS 2017 Convention, Kansas City**
- **July 9, Hosta Garden Walk #2, Deerfield**
- **July 15, Annual Bus Tour to Southern Wisconsin**
- **July 16, Hosta Garden Walk #3, Kirkland**
- **Aug 6, Hosta Garden Walk #4, Schaumburg**
- **Aug 13, Hosta Auction/ Fund Raiser, Hinsdale Community House**
- **Sept TBD, Pot Luck & Annual Mtg**
- **Oct TBD, Fall Symposium**

## President's Letter

Here's hoping that 2017 will be a good year for you—and for NIHS. Since our annual meeting in September, your board has worked hard to plan activities and events that we hope you will enjoy. Let me give you a brief overview. Many activities will be familiar, and others will offer something new. You will find details inside this newsletter. Mark your calendars now!

We will start with our *Potluck and White Elephant Tool Swap* on March 12. It's always an enjoyable event that rekindles NIHS friendships and enthusiasm for what we do. This year it will be at the home of Lou and Nicki Horton in West Chicago. Next, our *Spring Symposium* at Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines will feature prominent landscape writer and NIHS member Nina Koziol as speaker. Lou Horton has selected great sponsor plants, offered in this newsletter, for delivery at that meeting on April 29. PLEASE NOTE (SOMETHING NEW): THIS IS A SATURDAY. NIHS has not had a Saturday meeting before that we know of, so we'll see how it works.

June is always our busiest month, and this year it will be more so—so busy, in fact, that we moved the bus trip to July. We will start with the annual *Hosta Leaf Display and Sale* at the Chicago Botanic Garden the weekend of June 3 and 4.

*continued next page*



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## President's Letter *continued*

(We sure could use more leaf donations from members than we had last year; more about that in the next newsletter.) The American Hosta Society Convention is a few days later, June 7 – 10 in Indianapolis. The first NIHS Hosta Garden Walk of the year—a “twofer”—will be on Sunday, June 18, in McHenry, followed a few days later by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Kansas City, July 22 – 24. Whew!

Besides the bus trip on July 15, the schedule features Hosta Garden Walks on July 9, July 16, and August 6. Our auction fundraiser will be on Sunday, August 13, with Mark Zilis once again at the helm as auctioneer. Details of these and other events will be in future newsletters.

Another SOMETHING NEW this year will be an October/November meeting that will be a “bookend” to the Spring Symposium. Though plans have not been finalized, we expect to feature a prominent speaker from the hosta world. Our members have indicated that they like this type of gathering, and aside from the Holiday Party in early December, in the past we have scheduled no events between the annual meeting in September and the March potluck.

Our newly installed Membership Chair Stevie Meginness has also agreed to be NIHS Webmaster. She has updated the NIHS site and added a page about the AHS National Display Garden at Cantigny. We hope we can add a members-only page with up-to-date information about upcoming events. We're not there yet but hope you will see it during the next few months. Stay tuned!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

**Barbara**



**HORNBAKER**  
GARDENS, Inc.



Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanical Gardens



Open House and Hosta Walk  
June 9-10-11

Artisan Market—September 16

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



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**Rich's Foxwillow  
Pines Nursery, Inc.**

**Benefit for Bolivia**

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**9am - 4pm**

Hosta sales, Bolivian arts & crafts sales and estate sale items benefit Mano a Mano International Partners. This organization builds schools, hospitals, roads, and reservoirs in rural Bolivia.

**Cash or check 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 18 - November 22: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Saturday  
November 27 - March 16: 8:00 - 4:30 Monday - Friday

11618 McConnell Rd. Woodstock IL 60098  
815-338-7442

[coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com](mailto:coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com)  
[www.richsfoxwillowpines.com](http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com)



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS



## SPRING POTLUCK AND WHITE ELEPHANT SWAP

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1:00 pm Hosts: Lou and Nickie Horton

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the first NIHS gathering of the year at the West Chicago home of Lou and Nickie Horton to enjoy the fellowship of visiting with old friends, food from excellent NIHS cooks, and the fun of a swap.

For those who don't know, Nickie Horton is a fabulous cook. She has revealed that for this occasion, she will prepare chicken kabobs with rice. The rest of us will need to bring other dishes needed to complete a great meal: appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Be sure to contact Hospitality Co-chairs Sherrie Hughes or Tony Kwiatkowski at [alhughes60172@yahoo.com](mailto:alhughes60172@yahoo.com) or 630-893-3091 no later than March 10 to let them know you will be coming and what you will bring.

The tool and accessory swap is an NIHS tradition that is lots of fun when you get in the spirit. All you need to participate is a USED garden item you no longer want—DO NOT BUY something new! Here's how it works:

1. Bring a USED garden tool, accessory, yard ornament or any other garden-related item.
2. Wrap or package it in a way that disguises it or misleads observers as to what it is, and bring it along.
3. At the swap, each contributor gets to make a choice from among all the treasures.
4. After everyone has opened a package, re-swaps may occur.
4. If you still don't like what you got, take it home, wrap it up and bring it back next year!

**WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**



HOW TO GET THERE: The Hortons live at **1N735 Ingalton Avenue in West Chicago**. **From the north and west:** At the intersection of Routes 59 and 64, go south on Route 59 about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the second light, which is Hawthorn. Turn right onto Hawthorn, then take the first left onto Ingalton. The Horton home is the second one on the left. Park on either side of the street. **From the east, far west and south,** get onto I-88 and proceed to the Route 59 exit. Go north on Route 59 for 12 - 15 minutes (depending on traffic & weather), past Routes 56 and 38, to the light at Hawthorn. Turn left, then left again onto Ingalton and proceed as above. Phone the Hortons at 630-293-7735 if you have trouble enroute.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Spring Symposium & Sponsor Plant Pick-up

Saturday, April 29, at 1 p.m.

Our annual Spring Symposium will be held on a **Saturday** this year at a familiar venue, the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines. Our guest speaker will be Nina Koziol, a long-time member of NIHS. Her topic will be **“Color for the Shade Garden: Looking beyond Impatiens”**. For years, gardeners relied on annual Impatiens plants for summer color in their shade gardens. But since downy mildew (*Plasmopara abducens*) arrived in 2011 and quickly killed the plants, we’ve had to seek alternatives and other ways to create interest in low-light conditions. Nina will explore fantastic foliage, other annuals and clever ways to brighten your woodland garden.

Nina gardens on a deer-infested acre in Palos Park and speaks regularly to garden clubs in the Midwest. Ms. Koziol writes for the Chicago Tribune, Chicago-land Gardening, the Illinois Landscape Contractor and other publications. She serves as adjunct faculty at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum. Her flower and shrub borders, containers and edible gardens take inspiration from her grandpar-

ents' garden in Essex, England, which was a kaleidoscope of flowers, herbs, vegetables, rock garden, pond, potting shed, greenhouse and blue hydrangeas the size of basketballs.



See more at [www.thisgardencooks.com](http://www.thisgardencooks.com)

Please see the following page for the NIHS Sponsor Plants that you can order for pickup on April 29 at the Symposium. Also the Sponsor Plant Order Form is on page 6.

**Driving Directions:** Your destination is 395 West Algonquin Road in Des Plaines. Friendship Park Conservatory is located on the south side of Algonquin Road (Route 62), one-half mile east of the intersection with Elmhurst Road (Route 83). Traveling westbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Elmhurst Road and go north .7 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed .5 miles to Friendship Park. Traveling eastbound on the Northwest Tollway (I-90), exit at Arlington Heights Road and go north .4 miles to Algonquin Road (Route 62), turn right, and proceed 3 mile to Friendship Park. From Route 53, exit at Algonquin Road (Route 62) and proceed east 5.5 miles to Friendship Park.



Nina Koziol photo

## Introducing the 2017 NIHS Sponsor Plants

By Lou Horton

This year, all three plants are variegated but all have unique characteristics. They will be in four-inch pots which means they will be garden ready as soon as danger of frost has past. Gradually acclimate them to the outdoor environment.

Each member may purchase **one each** of the three plants, and it is not necessary to order all three. Please do not request multiples of any plant. Our order is for 25 of each, so it would be best to get your reservation in early. Any extra plants may be available at the meeting on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Friendship Conservatory in Des Plaines. Please note that this year's meeting will take place on Saturday rather than Sunday as in the past. The meeting begins at 1 PM. All plants must be picked up.

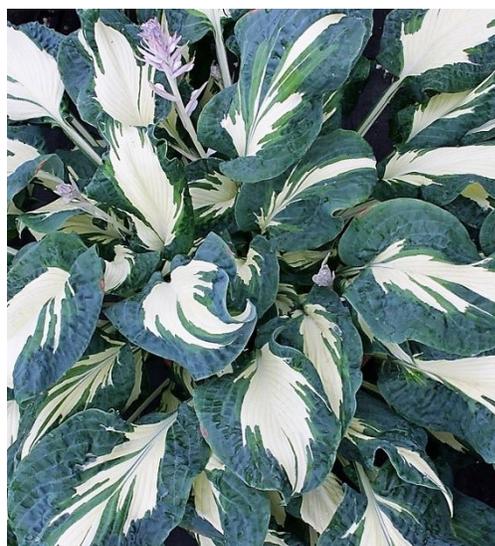
If you cannot attend the April meeting please make arrangements to pick up the plants prior to the meeting at my home. You can reach me at (630) 293-7735. Any plants not picked up will be considered a donation to the NIHS. Orders must reach me by Friday April 21st. The plants may well be all spoken for before that date, however so order early.

**Angel Falls** - Medium/large. top photo This Niagara Falls sport was introduced in 2015 by Walters Gardens. It has a cascading form and white center. Cost \$15

**One Last Dance** - Medium. Middle photo This is a sport of Dancing Queen with wide yellow margins and a green center. It features rippled edges. Not registered. Cost \$13

**Hans** - Medium. Bottom photo This sport of Andrew is reputed to be hardier and more vigorous than it's parent. Introduced in 2009 by Tony Avent. Cost \$15

Use Order Form on next page.



**2017 Hosta of the Year  
'Brother Stefan'**



(Petryszyn 1998)

Color - Medio-variegated

Size - Medium (22"ht x 35"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - White

Parent - 'King Tut' x 'Mildred Seaver' seedling

Possibly Olga Petryszyn's best introduction to date. Large, heavily corrugated gold leaves with a wide dark green margin. A moderate grower which forms a spectacular specimen in due time. Near white flowers in early summer.

Olga Petryszyn photo

**Prior Hosta of the Year Winners**

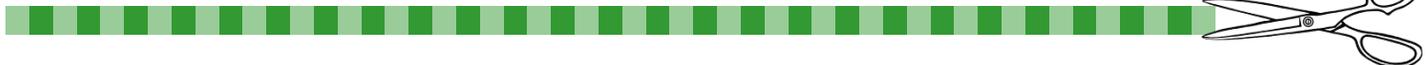
2016 'Curly Fries'

2015 'Victory'

2014 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

2013 'Rainforest Sunrise'

2012 'Liberty'



**Sponsor Plant Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Angel Falls (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ One Last Dance (\$13) \_\_\_\_\_

Hans (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ One of each plant (\$43) \_\_\_\_\_

All orders must be accompanied by a check for the full amount made out to NIHS. If you wish confirmation that your order was received, either include your email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Orders should be sent to Lou Horton 1N735 Ingalton Ave, West Chicago, IL 60185.



Over 700 Varieties available for the 2017 season.

Some in limited quantities, so order early.

New for 2017!

Twenty-five hosta introductions from Randy Goodwin!

Never released to the public, including the following.

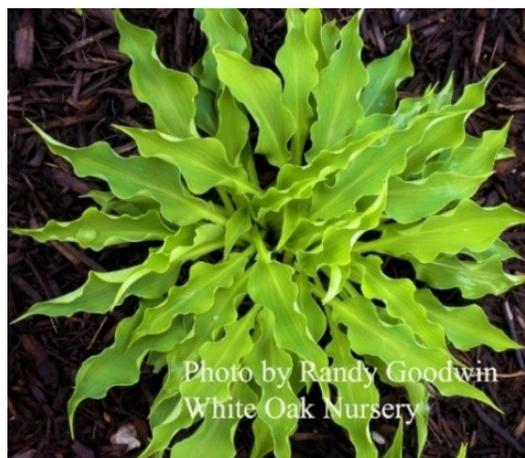


Photo by Randy Goodwin  
White Oak Nursery

**Hosta 'Aracus'**

Originator stock—Lighter veins with an undulating wavy edge on a lance shaped leaf  
(Small—12" x 25")

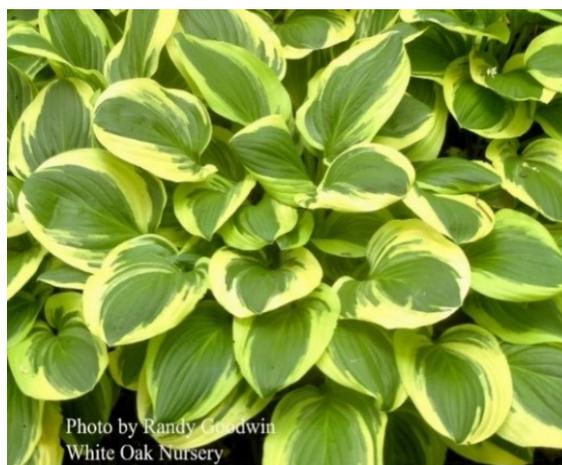


Photo by Randy Goodwin  
White Oak Nursery

**Hosta 'Happy'**

Originator stock—deep green centers with wide creamy margins that lighten during the season  
(Small—12" x 20")



Photo by Randy Goodwin  
White Oak Nursery

**Hosta 'National Treasure'**

Originator stock—Swirling leaves with green centers and nice creamy white margins; forms a beautiful mound (mini - 3" x 10")

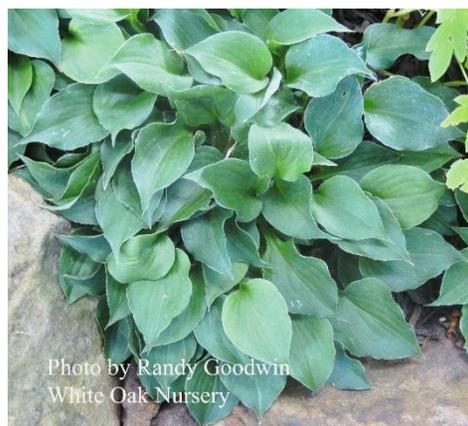


Photo by Randy Goodwin  
White Oak Nursery

**Hosta 'Small World'**

Originator stock - thick, leathery, blue-green leaves are held upright; slightly twisted, pointed leaves are eye-catching (Small - 6" x 10")

**White Oak Nursery**

**309-369-2065**

[hostas@whiteoaknursery.com](mailto:hostas@whiteoaknursery.com)

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

*Open Garden days – June 3-4 and 17-18, 2017 - Noon to 4 P.M.*

## Southern Wisconsin Bus Tour July 15— Garden Highlights

We will devote a full day to touring gardens from Rockford, Illinois to Madison, Wisconsin. A new hosta shopping opportunity will be available at a member-vendor's garden near Evansville, Wisconsin and we will spend time at one of Wisconsin's premier botanic gardens with over 4,000 varieties of plants including an outstanding hosta collection.

We will depart at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, from Parking Lot D at the north end of Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. All registrants for the tour will be advised of the specific departure point and provided driving directions with their confirmations. We will travel by motor coach. No lunch stop is planned so 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 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**QUESTIONS: Email Mark Rekoske at [ma-rekoske@gmail.com](mailto:ma-rekoske@gmail.com) or call him at 224-622-1171.**

Three gardens have been confirmed to date and at least one Madison-area private garden will be added to provide tour participants with maximum exposure to fine hostas.

### Garden Descriptions



Rotary Botanical Gardens  
Japanese garden



Timm Garden above & below-right photos

### Philip and Patty Timm Garden

Phil is past-president of the Wisconsin Hosta Society and an avid collector. The garden is best described as whimsical, fun and relaxing. Hostas are the main theme of the garden with over 500 named varieties on the one acre lot. Hosta hybridizing is a passion and you will find hundreds of seedlings to view as well. Since the tour comes in July, the daylilies will be in full bloom. There is a large array of daylilies ranging from the standard to UFO's to Spiders and polytepals. Visiting the garden you will see that it is divided into themed areas. You will find areas dedicated to fairies, gnomes, glass, venus fly traps, and wood spirits.



### Rotary Botanical Gardens

Located in Janesville, Wisconsin, Rotary Botanical Gardens is an award winning 20-acre, non-profit botanic showcase with over 24 different garden styles and 4,000 varieties of plants. We will enjoy a leisurely visit to the gardens and have time to eat lunch. The Gazebo Garden and the Japanese Garden display many mature hostas. Rotary Botanical Gardens' Japanese Garden was designed and built in 1989. This contemplative setting has been designed to offer a view to the adjacent pond and create an immersive experience. Features include gates, fences, a dry gravel sea, stones, a waterfall, stream, many Japanese lanterns and other elements. An ornate gazebo structure is the focal point of the Gazebo Garden and provides a restful spot for contemplation near the water. The gazebo frames a striking view of the pond with the iconic Japanese arched bridge and fountain. Plantings throughout this *continued next page*



**Southern Wisconsin Bus Tour July 15**  
**Garden Highlights continued**

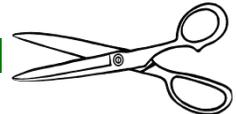
garden focus on varieties that will tolerate part shade or even deep shade conditions. Color and texture abound with perennials and annuals, both in beds and containers. Rotary Botanic Gardens is almost entirely planted and maintained by volunteers who plant tens of thousands of annuals each year.

*Hollywood Bob's Hosta Farm photos*



**Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm**

We will visit one of NIHS's newest member vendors. Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm is located in rural Evansville Wisconsin. It is operated by Mike Krueger and Rhonda Mulligan. In 2011, Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm began as a tribute to Mike's late brother Bobby who passed away in 2009. They fell in love with everything the Hosta community had to offer, creating life-long friendships. Hollywood Bob started with humble beginnings, offering just 23 Hosta varieties on 13 acres. Now they have more than 1,000 varieties spread across the garden. Hollywood Bob sells by mail order via Facebook and opens the nursery by appointment. A price list will be sent to all bus tour registrants in June so you can make a wish list before our visit. If you are a Facebook user you can search for Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm to locate their page. Last August Mike donated a number of fine plants for our annual auction and came down to the Community House to see the auction firsthand.



**Southern Wisconsin Bus Tour July 15 Order Form**

**Pease print this page and mail it with your check. Due date is 4/28/17**

**QUESTIONS: Email [marekoske@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Members \$40X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Guest \$50X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Late Entries \$50X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Total \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Please provide your email address above. Confirmation of your reservation, directions to the parking lot and the tour schedule will be sent to you via 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.



## **Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm**

**Over 1,000 varieties  
WI and IL locations!**



In 2011, Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm began as a tribute to my late brother Bobby who passed away in 2009. We fell in love with everything the Hosta community had to offer, creating life-long friendships. Hollywood Bob started with humble beginnings showcasing 23 Hosta varieties on 13 acres. Now we have over 1,000 varieties and two locations! We are excited for you to visit and see everything we have to offer! — Mike

**Owners Mike Krueger and Rhonda Mulligan  
Open Sat. & Sun. May 27-28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Other times by appointment.**

**5404 N. Eagle Rd., Evansville, WI 53536  
(608) 490-0195**



Like us on Facebook! [Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm](#) and now [Hollywood Bob's Hosta Farm II](#) in Illinois!

# **Uniquely Hostas**

**Looking for that something special for your garden?**

**We have it!**

**Come and check us out during our Open Houses.**

**May 27-29th**

**June 3-4th**

**9am until 5pm**

**205 Grove Avenue**

**Elroy, WI 53929**

**608-462-4662**

**[www.uniquelyhostas.com](http://www.uniquelyhostas.com)**



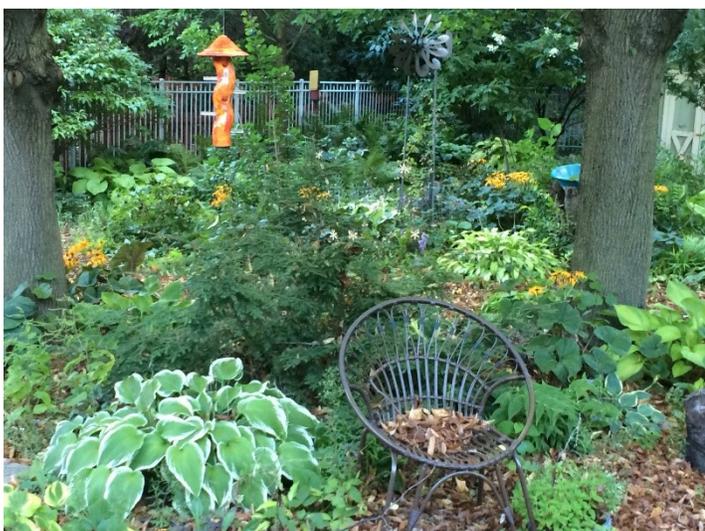
## Two-fer Hosta Garden Walk Preview June 18 in McHenry

Mark your calendars for our first garden walk of 2017. It will be a twofer on Sunday, June 18. We will visit two outstanding shade gardens in northwest suburban McHenry. Both were featured on the 2015 University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners Garden Walk.

**Dawn Anderson**, a long-time NIHS member, provided the following description. Welcome to Made in the Shade Garden! In 2003 I moved to a new house & I also moved my garden. I love my little house but at that time the property had a lot to be desired. Initially the backyard was all grass, 2 trees and mostly full sun. Not the best environment for a shade gardener and 200+ shade plants that needed a home. I hired a crew to remove the back lawn, rototill the beds and plant the bigger trees I had purchased. The rest was up to me. I spent the fall finding new homes for all my transplants and new plants I had purchased along the way. Spring 2004 saw the installation of the fence and planting of hundreds of plants. In 2006 came the stone paths and steel edging.

Advance 14 years, most of the back garden is immersed in shade from the towering trees with stone paths that gently lead you from one garden bed to another where you can see beautiful foliage and flowers. It's a mecca for all sorts of wildlife. I have seen many deer and turkeys, a fox, coyote, and woodchuck plus many birds and butterflies.

*Anderson Garden*



*Michael/Walter garden*

Over the years I have been planting easy-to-care-for plants - lilies, peonies, daylilies, grasses, hydrangeas and hostas. What

matters most to me is my peaceful garden and the wildlife that visit. I hope that while you are here, you have a chance to take a deep breath and forget about your troubles for a little bit.

**Ellen Michael and Tom Walter garden** just blocks away from the Anderson garden on a one-acre lot that has been a work in progress since 1992. Ellen provided the following description. Our property backs up to a natural park setting. Because the backyard is surrounded by mature oak trees, it is mostly shaded. Nearly all of my yard is now outlined with garden beds. I have over 250 varieties of hosta and have found that after 20 years or so some hostas need replacement so there is a mix of old standbys like Sum and Substance and Montana Aureomarginata and newer favorites like Autumn Frost and Curly Fries. In addition to the Hostas, pulmonaria perform well in my yard and I have divided them over the years and use them as a ground cover. I also have many varieties of ferns, brunnera and other shade tolerant plants.

Over the last 10 years we have added many shrubs and understory trees including 20 varieties of Japanese maples. Other trees and shrubs added include Redbuds, Hemlocks, Tri-Color Beech, Oak Leaf Hydrangeas, and Korean Maple. An interesting tree we planted last year is a Japanese Emperor Oak. We are looking forward to seeing what it does this spring.

Last year we received a beautiful Kaleidoscope plant stand. It will be planted with miniature hostas this year. It will be a highlight when you visit our garden.



## BITS AND PIECES

**Patronize Our Advertisers,** Our advertisers each have special Sale and/or Open House dates that would be a perfect time to shop for some great hostas and companions.

**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 [ma-rekoske@gmail.com](mailto:ma-rekoske@gmail.com).

**Hold the Date,** Our annual Spring Symposium and Sponsor Plant Pickup will be on **Saturday** April 29 at the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines.

**Order Sponsor Plants,** See the article on the great NIHS sponsor plants that Lou Horton has procured. Order your plants ASAP using the enclosed order form.

**Avoid Spring Frost Damage,** See the article of the same name for tips & techniques to protect your prized plants.

**Book Bus Tour,** See the article on the fabulous July 15 bus tour to Southern Wisconsin gardens and hosta farm. Book early to reserve your seat.



Susan Welker garden art in 2016.

Photo by  
Dave Trollope

## New Member Welcome!!

*A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!*

**Raymond & Linda Drozs, Chicago**

**Robin Booth, Inverness**

**Marlene Rosenberg & Jonathan Goodrich,  
Elroy, WI**



Join the NIHS by contacting Stevie Meginness,  
Chairman, 84 Dunham Place

St. Charles, IL 60174 with your check for \$20.  
Please include your name(s), address, phone #,  
and current email address.

Family membership dues of \$20 for 2 years in-  
clude email versions of 4 newsletters.

Email us at [NI.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:NI.hosta@gmail.com). Call Stevie at  
630-377-9306. Visit our website @  
[www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org](http://www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org) and visit  
us on Facebook.

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**NIHS WANTS YOU!! -- TO VOLUNTEER AT CANTIGNY HOSTA GARDEN***Sign Up For Training Now*

NIHS is looking for more volunteers to help maintain our hosta garden at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. The required training sessions are already on the schedule for those who sign up. Imagine the sense of accomplishment you will get from working with other NIHS people to keep our AHS National Display Garden looking beautiful. It's also a great way to get to know fellow members.



Volunteers help out from mid-April to mid-November. During that period we schedule workdays every two weeks from 9 am – Noon, usually on Tuesdays because that day works best for the Cantigny staff people who work with us. Groups of 6 – 8 volunteers are assigned to help out at each session, so we don't need everyone to work every time. Our tasks are to clean up the site, plant new hostas and companion plants, mulch, weed, water, and do whatever else is necessary to keep the area looking great. After April 1 this year construction will be underway in the area of the hosta garden that might affect our schedule, but the work described will still need to be done.

Cantigny requires new and returning volunteers to take the garden safety training once each year before the season starts, and child safety training every two years. All volunteers must have completed the child safety training

by October 31, 2017, or they will no longer be able to work.

Here is the 2017 training schedule:

**Garden safety:** Wednesday, March 8 – 9 am; Thursday, April 6 – 1 pm (1 – 1-1/2 hours). Both sessions will be at the greenhouse.

**Child safety:** Thursday, June 22 – 10 am; Tuesday, August 8 – 6 pm; Wednesday, October 11 – 10 am (2-1/2 – 3 hours). All sessions will be in the Visitors Center.

**Garden and child safety training together:** Monday, April 10 – 10 am.

***PLEASE CONTACT BARBARA KING BY MONDAY, MARCH 6 AT 630-879-2263 or [bhk430@att.net](mailto:bhk430@att.net) TO JOIN OUR CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS AND TO SIGN UP FOR TRAINING.***

## Fall Potluck & Annual Meeting

By Arlene & Bruce



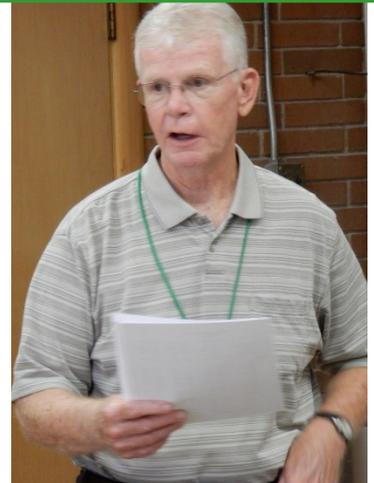
Arlene & Bruce Solyom (left pic) were the gracious hosts for this affair.



Our annual Fall Potluck and annual meeting was a fun affair on Sept 18 in Lombard. We feasted on delectable dishes and elected 6 new officers .

Also, Director reports & updates were delivered by Barbara King, Mark Rekoske, Andy Campbell, & Mike Kraus.

*Photos by Ron Asselborn*



## Introducing Our New NIHS Board Members



**Linda Lood** is a Director-At-Large. Linda tells us -

I get my gardening background from my mother and grandfather. As my kids grew older, I got more into gardening. Ten years ago I became a Master Gardener with the University of Illinois Extension in Kane County .

I purchased my first hosta in a box of six from Sam's Club, and the addiction began. I like a lot of different plants, but hostas are generally the mainstay in my gardens. I have been a member of NIHS for a few years, but couldn't attend most functions because they fell on a work day. Now that I'm retired, I've enjoyed being busy, and helping at Cantigny.



**Tony Kwiatkowski**

Is a co-Hospitality Chair along with Sherrie Hughes. Tony relates -

I was raised on a small farm where my father had a large vegetable garden. About 40 years ago I planted my first tomatoes in containers

on the patio of my house. I continue to grow vegetables in containers today. After retiring I went from mowing grass and weeding in my wife's flower beds to all types of landscaping activities. After being widowed and meeting Sherrie I joined Sherrie's garden club. This led to both of us joining and volunteering in NIHS.



**Stevie Meginness**

is Membership Secretary. Stevie's story is - I am married and we have six adult children and 13 grandchildren. I grew up an Air Force military brat and was a military wife.

I have lived in 13 states and love to travel. I am a retired teacher and currently substitute teach for the St. Charles School District. My husband and I truly enjoy gardening and visiting other gardens around the world. Other hobbies include spending time with family, calligraphy, needlework, quilting, reading, painting on canvas and furniture, teaching for Lifelong Learning, collecting children's toys from the 1930s through 1960s and children's books.



**Lynn Walsh** is Publicity Director.

Lynn has her own public relations firm. Lynn wants us to know -

I love learning about hostas and enjoy collecting and relocating them. Sue Welker, my

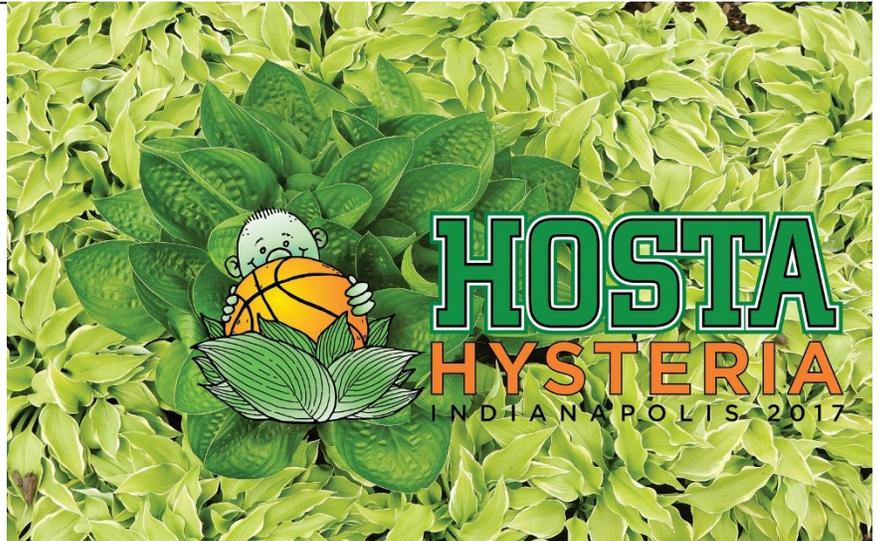
swimming coach and fellow member, introduced me to NIHS. Our swimming group also has a gardening group.

My husband and I are 31-year residents of Hinsdale and we have two adult children. It's wonderful to share my passion with like-minded gardeners!

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

From **June 7-10**, the Indianapolis Hosta Society invites you to experience **HOSTA Hysteria** at the 2017 American Hosta Society National Convention.

The program includes bus tours of ten beautiful gardens, several speakers, vendors and a Hosta show. Plus, to get the excitement started, they are offering three wonderful gardens on Wednesday that you can tour on your own. Or join up for a pre-convention day trip to southern Indiana to experience the historic West Baden Springs Hotel and gardens.

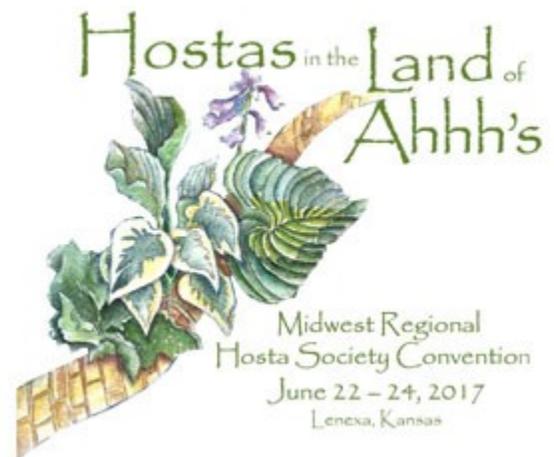


This gala event is scheduled for the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

More convention and hotel information, plus a registration form is available on the Society's website: [www.indyhosta2017.com](http://www.indyhosta2017.com).

From **June 22-24**, Rob Mortko and his band of helpers invite you to experience **Hostas in the Land of Ahhh's** at the 2017 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention. Highlights include:

- 9 tour gardens
- 6 educational speakers plus 2 banquet speakers
- Hybrid Touring—1 day by bus (optional) and 1 day drive yourself
- A Japanese garden with focus on species hosta from Japan
- A conifer-lovers garden hosted by past-president of the American Conifer Society
- A new twist on Hostality plus a few more surprises



Stay at the **HYATT PLACE KANSAS CITY/LENEXA CITY CENTER**

Click on the convention website for more details: <http://www.2017kchostaconvention.com/Index.html>

Holiday Party Dec 2016 @  
The Fulkerson's



Penny & Carl Fulkerson (top left photo, center & right) hosted a gala afternoon of friendship and food in early December. The weather provided another bit of holiday magic.

*Ron Asselborn photos*



## June's January Bulb Planting

By June Vandervest



On Saturday, Jan. 21st, I attended the MRHS Winter Conference and heard a talk entitled "Minor Bulbs for the Shade Garden" given by Jill Sellinger, Manager of Adult Education at Chicago Botanic Gardens. The weather had been unseasonably mild for most of the previous week. It got up to 52 degrees that day and that gave me an idea. If I could get a spade in the ground, I was going to plant the free bulbs I got from a local nursery. I had originally planned to hold those bulbs for forcing indoors, but long as the weather was cooperating, why not plant them in the ground? Here you can see what 4 1/2 hours of work can do on a January day.

1)



I put in 56 daffodils & 50 Fritillaria in this spot on Sunday. Planted another 20 white Narcissus & 10 peach tulips in front of the house and 20 red tulips out back on Monday. I have planted bulbs in December several times, but this is a first for the middle of January. With any luck and a little help from Mother Nature, I should have some very nice compliments for my Hostas when the flowers appear next spring.

June's January Plantings - Counterclockwise from top - 1) colorful bulbs in their store packages; 2) excavating the 'U-shaped' planting hole to 6 inches; 3) the planted bulbs with their growing tips up; 4) the covered bulbs with the groundcover back in place.  
*Photos by June Vandervest*

2 ↑ 3 ↓ 4 ↘



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Companion Corner - Bulbs

One of the speakers at the AHS National Convention held July 2016 in St. Louis was Jason Delaney former North Gardens Supervisor and Bulb Collections Specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Jason is now a Horticulturalist at Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. Jason's topic was "Discover the Real Beauty of



*Allium afl. 'Purple Sensation'*

Your Home with Bulb Magic". Bulbs are classified as geophytes. These are plants that spend part of their life cycle as dormant, fleshy underground organs. Geophytes also include corms, tubers, fibrous roots and stems and rhizomes. They are outstanding plants for the garden because of the tremendous

selection available, their long flowering period, their long lifespan, and their adaptability to a wide range of soil types. They require little maintenance and the majority are animal resistant. This topic is especially appropriate now as the prime time for planting bulbs in St. Louis is October and November, when the temperatures are getting cooler. Bulbs need 12 weeks of cold to put forth their best display of blooms. Jason facetiously told his audience that "if you can grow a dandelion, you can grow most bulbs." Check your light/shade conditions, soil type and moisture levels.



*Daffodil 'Golden Trumpet'*

Spring blooming bulbs can be planted in the shadier portions of your garden as they bloom before the tree canopy leaves out. Dig the soil so it is loose and workable. You may need to add some organic matter such as compost or peat moss. Jason recommends liberally adding Turface to the soil to improve its

structure. He uses Turface Athletics MVP. To determine whether it is necessary to amend your soil, get it tested. You



*Fritillaria meleagris*

may not need to do anything. If a fertilizer is needed, use one that is low in nitrogen, high in potash and medium range in phosphorous. Plant your bulb three times the diameter deep and that far apart. Plant in clusters for the best bloom display. Place the bulb in the hole pointy side up, root side down. Sometimes it is hard to tell top from bottom. Plant these on their sides - the bulb will figure it out. Fill the hole with soil and then water. Bulbs need moisture at the basal plate or crown to stimulate root growth. There is a bulb for every season from spring to fall. The early spring beauties, snowdrops, eranthis, snowflakes, squill, Spanish bluebells, and grape hyacinths are followed by daffodils, alliums, cobra lilies and tulips. Jason warned that tulips like it hot and dry and thus are not compatible with hostas. As summer takes over, Oriental and Asian lilies, crinum and daylilies take center stage. Fall brings the bright pink blooms of the Hardy Begonia, the surprise of the Magic Lily (also called Resurrection lily) and the hardy Cyclamens. Some of Jason's favorite sources for quality bulbs are:



*Hyacinthoides hispanica*

*John Scheepers photos*

- John Scheepers (<https://www.johnscheepers.com/>)
- Brent and Becky's Bulbs (<https://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com/>)
- Living Gardens (<http://www.livinggardens.com/>)
- Plant Delights (<http://www.plantdelights.com/>).

*Article reprinted from St Louis Hosta Society, Oct 2016*

## Avoiding Spring Frost Damage

by Ray Rodgers

**The anticipation and excitement of early spring** - Spring is a joyous time for gardeners, a time of great anticipation as we start wandering around our gardens looking for signs of new beginnings. Such excitement must be tempered with the realization that freezing temperatures are always a possibility until mid-May in Central Illinois. The average last frost date for Peoria is May 8. Every year, I hope spring will come in gracefully, without the major temperature swings we have come to expect. Unfortunately, this rarely has happened. Last year was a prime example. When we reached the month of May I was surprised by an unexpected frost that damaged gardens on the night of May 2 / May 3. Every spring, I give credit to H. 'On Stage' as being the smartest hosta in my garden as it is the last hosta to emerge from winter dormancy, making it much less susceptible to frost damage.

**When hostas should be protected** - It is important to realize that hostas, even completely leafed out, can withstand temperatures below freezing (32° F). I have repeatedly read that hostas can handle temperatures down to 28° F for short times with minimal or no damage. During winter, if I find exposed hosta buds, I scrape a little mulch or soil mix from the surrounding area over them for protection. In very early spring, if shoots are starting to emerge, I often cover them in the same manner to slow their progress and provide additional protection. If shoots are a few inches tall and still in the



*Hostas this page suffering from frost/ice damage.*

early stages, and if temperatures below 30° F are forecasted, provide additional protection via a choice of mulch or dried leaves piled around and over the emerging shoots. Alternatively, one of the protective methods described below can be utilized. The more leafed-out hostas are, the more susceptible they are to frost damage. In these cases, covering via one of the methods described below is the best alternative. One must consider the uniqueness of their gardens and plant placements when determining whether to protect or not. Of course, part of the decision process is how much trust one has in the accuracy of the forecast. Isn't that a scary thought!

**Plant protection** - If you decide to protect, there are many options. Almost anything that can cover a hosta will help. It is important **not** to let the leaves touch the covering material as they are more likely to sustain freeze damage at that contact if the temperature gets low enough. There are many methods for protecting your plants via covering. Materials include: - Plastic pots (crumpled newspaper covering drainage holes improves protection) - Newspapers - Cardboard boxes - Frost Cloth\* (fabric material available through nursery supply companies) - Bed sheets\* - Bath towels\* - Light blankets\* - Burlap\* - Garbage cans - Bushel baskets - Wheelbarrows turned upside down. \* *These need to be propped up and anchored down.* *Continued next page*



## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

## Avoiding Spring Damage

*continued*

Another method is to keep a continuous spray of water on plants when the temperature is below 28° F, as water is warmer than the air. I try to keep a bundle of sticks or stakes around for props. I have also used covered saw-horses over larger hostas. Bricks and rocks are good anchors and also work well to hold down plastic pots during windy conditions. Polyethylene film or similar materials, including plastic bags, **should be avoided** as condensation buildup on the inside can increase the likelihood of damage to hosta leaves. These materials are also a danger once the sun comes out.

**The morning after** - After all the chosen plants are protected from the impending freezing temperature start the uncovering task the following morning. Keeping the plants covered until the temperature climbs back above freezing is the best option. But, if you must go to work, call upon family or neighbors for help. If the forecast calls for temperatures to remain in the danger zone, keep the plants covered.

**How cold is too cold** - This depends on the number of hostas you have to protect. If hostas are completely leafed out and the temperature dips into the low 20°s F, protective measures may reduce the severity, but it is unlikely that they will prevent freeze damage.

**What should be done to frost-damaged hostas** - If hostas are hit by damaging frosts it is best to cut off and discard the most significantly damaged leaf tissue (sanitizing the cutting tool between plants), keeping as many of the undamaged leaves and petioles as possible to allow the continuation of the plant's food making process. If enough leaves are removed, hostas will force a second flush of leaves from smaller and previously dormant buds. This flush will likely produce smaller leaves. Even worse than



hosta leaves turning to mush, is the possibility of the crown being damaged which allows rot to set in. The crown of the hosta is the base where the roots and shoots



*Hostas on this page suffering from Crown Rot.*

join. **Crown rot** can happen in early spring when water stands around the crown or if the plant freezes after it breaks dormancy. If hostas sustain significant leaf damage, be sure to check the crown for soft areas. Remove this soft tissue back to solid tissue to prevent further rot and possibly the death of the plant.

**Which hostas are most frost sensitive** - Late freezes can be a problem with any variety, especially the ones that break dormancy early. The species *H. plantaginea* and its sports have the reputation of being the most frost sensitive. It is widely believed all fragrant hostas have *H. plantaginea* in their lineage, making them candidates for protection. *H. plantaginea* is one of the only species that will continue to produce new leaves all summer long. This is an advantage when the original spring foliage becomes damaged. Contrarily, I have read that hostas in the Sieboldiana Group and Tokudama Group are slow to recover from frost damage, as they tend to push only one good flush of growth in a season, also making hostas with these lineages, good candidates for protection. A few other of the more sensitive hostas include *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata', 'Sagae', 'Lancifolia', and 'Chinese Sunrise'.

**New purchases** - If hostas are purchased prior to mid-May, I leave them in pots so they can easily be moved to a protected area when frost warnings occur.

**Is it worth the effort?** - protecting hostas from freezing temperatures is certainly a hassle. Each of us has to determine for ourselves whether it is worth the effort and when to take protective measures. In my opinion, we must always be aware of the possibility of freezing temperatures and react accordingly to preserve the beauty of our gardens.

*Reprinted from Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter, March 2015*

### ST. FIACRE – THE PATRON SAINT OF GARDENING

May 1, 590, in a royal manor house in what is now Ireland, was born a child and he was named Fiachra. Fiachra grew up in a sheltered environment, favoring the gentle pursuits over war; chapel, music, and poetry over the jousting field. He was free to come and go throughout the countryside, soon learning the habit of every flower and plant.

Fiachra attended to his schooling at a small monastery, over the objections of his father. Returning home at the age of twenty, he was expected to take up the reins of heir, learning the manly arts he missed while growing into manhood. Young love got in the way, crossing the class boundaries between royalty and servant. When Fiachra's father ordered his love to leave the country, she made a quick, blind escape into the deep waters of the river. Near death from a broken heart, Fiachra renounced his heritage and rode off to the nearest abbey.



Only time could heal his body and only prayer could heal his mind. Fiachra eventually chose the kingdom of the Franks for the location of his hermitage. Faro, bishop of an abbey on the Marne told him, "For your garden, you may have as much land as you can entrench in a single day!" When Fiachra dragged his spade over the ground, trees fell, bushes were uprooted and the land was miraculously cleared. The monk then used his herb, flower and vegetable gardens to feed the poor and treat the sick who flocked to him after learning of the miracle.

An unending stream of journeying monks passed through the area, many remaining to join in the labor of building the monastery. Each year the garden grew more beautiful. His gift of healing became more powerful with the years and the hospice

became renowned. St. Fiacre died at Meaux, France, in August, 670.

Author unknown

## Buyer beware: That new hosta might not be what the label says you're getting

What's in a name? Shakespeare might think a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but Warren I. Pollock, a columnist for the American Hosta Society's *The Hosta Journal*, thinks otherwise. He frequently dwells on what, to some, might appear as nitpicking. (Not too long ago he was upset, perhaps justifiably, because a hosta with "Dr." in the name contained — horrors! — a period, when there shouldn't have been one. This is probably important to purists, but to us, it was more interesting to learn that abbreviations like Prof. and Rev. have periods, but others, such as Dr and St [Doctor and Saint] do not — in England, that is. And in AHS.)



*Hosta 'Orange Marmalade'*

His latest revelation is more pertinent. It involves television giant's HGTV selling plants, including hostas. The problem is, they're re-naming well-known regis-

tered hostas, presumably to add some sales pizzazz. One is Bob Solberg's 'Orange Marmalade' which they call "Citrine Supreme."™. Another is "Blue Dew"™, registered as 'First Frost.' The list goes on. Just be aware that if you buy an HGTV Home, or Hosta Treasures™ hosta, you might not be getting what you think you're getting. You might already have it, under another name.

*From Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society Northern Star January 2017*

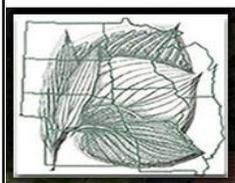
## DID YOU KNOW???? Save On Gardens Admissions

If you apply to become a member of the Chicago Botanic Garden, you will receive a 10 percent discount in your fee if you let them know that you are an NIHS member.

**10%  
off**

NIHS is a 501(c)(4) organization, a nonprofit corporation, which means that donations to NIHS are not tax deductible. But at present we do not owe federal taxes, though we must file.

Cantigny Park offers free admission to veterans who are members of their Honor Club. To join and receive a free membership card, veterans simply have to fill out a form at the Visitors Center.



### Midwest Region Hosta Society

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



The  
american  
**HOSTA  
SOCIETY**

[www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)

## HOSTA HAPPENINGS

**Hosta Ramblings****Serial Plant Killer**

by Harold McDonell



Hosta 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa'

I started thinking about it a few years ago in a tour garden at an AHS National Convention in Minnesota. The garden owners had created a little five foot square or so bed planted solely with the display markers of plants that had come to live in their garden, only to eventually die for whatever reason. It was an impressive display of quite a few markers but I couldn't help but think how I would need much more than a five by five foot area to house all the markers of plants that have died on my watch in my garden.

Over the years I have tried to put it out of my mind but as more and more plants have since bit the dust, that display just remained on my mind until, finally, I had to realize and admit something very awful. I am a serial killer of plants. No, I don't mean all those many weeds I have nuked as well as the poison ivy, privet, and oak and pine tree seedlings or the honeysuckle, grape, smilax, and Virginia Creeper vines I have dispatched. Neither do I include the many trees removed for my convenience or just because, in the case of sweet gums, I hate them. What I am talking about are those plants of value that came to live in my garden at my express invitation with an implied trust that I would take proper care of them. I killed them, many of them, maybe even hundreds of them, over the many years I have been gardening.

My first plant love was for daylilies back in the days when I had more sunny areas in the garden. Yes, I have killed many daylilies, or at least they have died while in my care. Many of you will be quick to say that you cannot kill a daylily. Well, just pay \$100 or more for a prized new cultivar and I can guarantee you it will be a prime candidate for death. (Of course, even I can't kill *Hemerocallis fulva*, the old common ditch lily, not even after dousing it with Roundup.)

The first hosta I ever acquired also died, a victim of climate acclimation issues within three years of purchase. It

was H. 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa'. Hosta guru George Schmid warned me it would not grow in the south. However, I thought it was just about the prettiest plant I had ever seen (still do) so I refused to heed his advice and the poor plant paid the price.

Many more hosta deaths have followed over the years in my garden. Being a believer in Tony (Plant Delights Nursery) Avent's oft-stated advice that no plant should be considered not growable in your garden until you have killed it at least three times, I have also introduced tons of other plants into my garden, quite a few considered marginal or unsuitable for my area, with disastrous results for many of them. Some I even managed to kill more than once just as Tony directed. Therefore, he should be considered at least a co-conspirator in some of my plant murders, shouldn't he? And shouldn't the voles and deer be responsible for the plants they took out despite my objections?

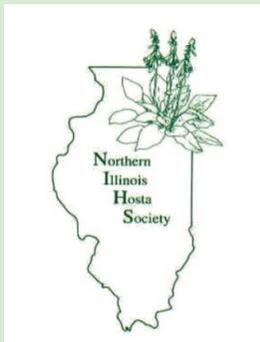
No. Just like alcoholics and drug addicts, I must take that first hard step and own up to MY problem rather than blaming others before I can get better. Therefore, I again repeat my earlier stated admission. I am a serial plant killer. With this admission, I hope that future plant deaths in my garden will become non-existent or at least less frequent. Somehow, though, I don't much think that is going to happen.

*From Georgia Hosta Notes A Publication of The Georgia Hosta Society January 2017*

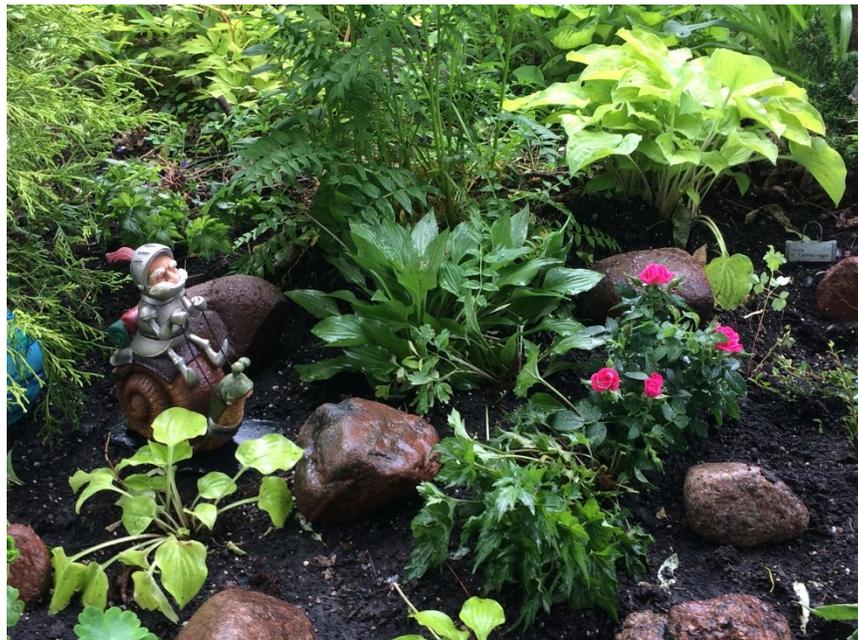
NIHS Membership Secretary

84 Dunham Place

St. Charles, IL 60174



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 Anderson garden will be one of the two-fer gardens on the June 18 Hosta Garden Walk*



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*Rotary Botanical Gardens will be a stop on the July 15 Bus Tour*