

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 99

JULY 2017

2017 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **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 8, NIHS 25th Anniversary Celebration & Symposium**
- **Dec TBD. Holiday Party**



Message from the Editor

Hello to all you gardeners and hosta aficionados! Barbara was unable to provide her usual message due to her out of town commitments so I wanted to let you know what's happening in hostadom.

Recently we announced we would be celebrating the NIHS' 25th anniversary with a celebration on **October 8th**. Planning is in progress and details will be announced soon. Please hold the date and plan on participating in the celebration.

Early in June Judi & I attended the American Hosta Society convention in Indianapolis. We visited 12 lovely gardens, several were spectacular! The planners also included four great seminars- a session on garden layering, hellebores, plants from Longwood Gardens, and great companion plants.

I strongly urge you to attend next year's AHS convention in suburban Philadelphia. This will be a 50 year anniversary celebration filled with outstanding and exotic hosta gardens in a great garden area. Make it a vacation and enjoy the historic and cultural attractions in the region. The convention dates are June 20 - 23, 2018.

We have 3 more great Hosta Garden Walks coming up in July & August. Mark Rekoske has done a great job of lining up these gardens for your visit. See details inside. Enjoy!

Ron Asselborn



In this Issue:

Vendor Ads	2,7,& 9
Hosta Garden Walk #2	3
Gardening W/ Hostas	4
Hosta Garden Walk #3	5
Mark Rekoske Honored	6
Hosta Garden Walk #4	8
Bits & Pieces	10
New Member Welcome	10
Support Pollinators	11
Leaf Display CBG	13
Cutworm Hosta Damage	14
McHenry Garden Walk	15
Rabbit Damage	16
AHS Convention	17
Officers & Directors	18



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Rich's Foxwillow
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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.

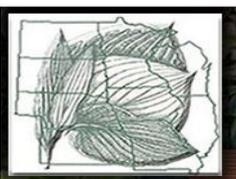
Cash or check only.

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
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com






Midwest Region Hosta Society
Visit: www.midwesthostasociety.org/

Gorgeous Garden Walk Preview July 9 Deerfield

Janice Becker hosts our next Hosta Garden Walk of the season in Deerfield on Sunday, July 9. Janice's garden was featured last year in "Fine Gardening" magazine. She describes herself as a collector of plants and her garden exhibits a great eye for composition. Janice provided the following description of her garden and her plant collecting habit.

"I started gardening in earnest 20 years ago just simply for fun and to improve the yard around my house beyond the simple annuals I was used to planting. In 1998 I became a Master Gardener with classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As a condition of completion I had to volunteer in the Plant Evaluation Gardens. There I saw plants I never knew existed: trollius, euphorbia, rogersia. My interest in gardening was piqued, not because I wanted to design gardens but because I wanted the plants. I am not a designer; I am a plant geek. No sweeps of plants in my garden; I barely have room for the onesies that I have. I garden on a typical suburban corner lot that has become my piece of paradise.

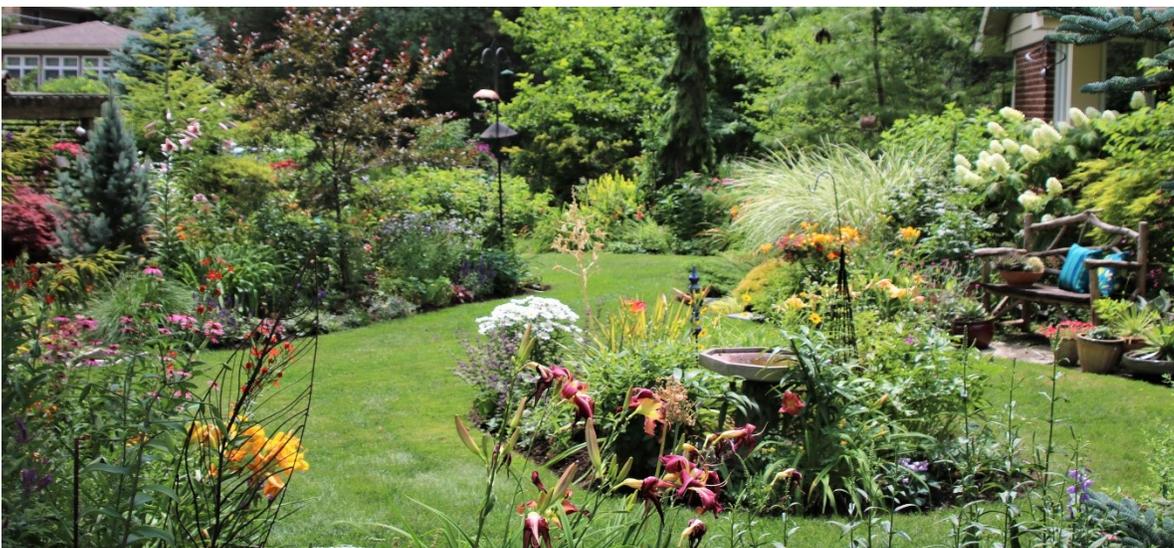


I have spent the last ten years volunteering at the CBG for Richard Hawke, the Plant Evaluation Manager. We talk plants, visit gardens, and attend plant symposia. Suffice it to say, there are still plants that I have just brought into my garden: syneilesis, deinanthe, arenaria. I just want to see the plants growing in my garden. Hope to see you in July!"

Directions: Your destination is 1107 Warrington Road, Deerfield, IL 60014.

From the north-- Exit at IL 22 (Half Day Road), turn left and proceed east for 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Waukegan Road and go 2 miles to Westgate Road. Go left on Westgate about 0.25 miles to Warrington Road. Turn left onto Warrington and 1107 will be on the right.

From the south or west proceed to I-94 West or I-294 Northbound Tri-State Tollway. Exit at Deerfield Road and merge onto eastbound Deerfield Road. After 1.5 miles turn left onto Warrington Road and proceed about 0.4 miles to your destination at 1107 on the right side of the street.



GARDENING with Hostas

By Diana Stoll

Gardens filled with hostas are beautiful, no doubt about it. Their foliage in shades of yellow, blue and green combine together in a riot of color. In my humble, hosta-loving opinion, however, the best landscapes are not a monoculture of hostas. Instead, they employ companion perennials with fine-texture or colorful foliage to contrast the lush leaves of our beloved hostas.

The perennials most often used are astilbes, ferns and coral bells. These are all great choices and create classic combinations. Are you nodding your head in agreement as you look out at your own hosta haven? Consider hellebores to keep hostas company in the garden.

Lenten roses, botanically named *Helleborus x hybridus*, have recently garnered the attention of gardeners and hybridizers. New cultivars are being introduced with bolder flower colors and blooms less shy, holding their faces upwards so gardeners don't have to get on their bellies to see them. They help bulbs wake the garden in April, sporting cup-shaped flowers in shades from white to the darkest purple and just about any color in between. Some are spotted. Flowers fade so gently they contribute color to the landscape for as long as three months.

Lenten roses grow up to eighteen inches tall and wide. Their palmate, glossy, dark green leaves are evergreen providing winter interest, but often look pretty ragged by the end of winter. I remove them before new growth begins.



Helleborus foetidus is an ideal partner for hostas.

Helleborus foetidus is commonly called stinking hellebore. Reportedly, the flowers and foliage, when crushed, have an unpleasant fragrance. I have never noticed it, but I have never stuck my nose directly into one of their soft lime-green flowers or purposely injured their leaves. Blooming earlier than *Helleborus x hybridus*, stinking hellebores boast small bell-



shaped blooms, sometimes edged in burgundy. The flowers are attractive for a long time, still pretty in my garden in mid-June.

The flowers may not be as flashy as those of Lenten roses, but I think their foliage is more attractive. Deeply cut, leathery, dark green leaves are evergreen but also need clean up in spring. Plants grow up to two feet tall and not quite as wide.

Hellebores prefer to be planted in rich, well-drained soil in part to full shade. A few hours of dappled sunlight is all *Helleborus x hybridus* needs; *Helleborus foetidus* favors a little more sun. They both tolerate drought once established, but cannot survive in soggy soil.

All parts of hellebores are poisonous, so deer and other garden marauders leave them alone. They are rarely bothered by insects or disease. The hellebores in my gardens are allowed to self-seed with abandon. If free love is not your idea of good garden design, remove flowering stems to prevent seedlings.

Country Garden Preview
The Hood's New Garden in
Kirkland
July 16

Dennis and Connie Hood moved to Kirkland IL three years ago. They immediately set out to create a garden that included many of their favorite hostas. The Hoods will host our third garden walk of 2017 on Sunday, July 16. Their garden will also be featured on the DeKalb County Master Gardeners Garden Walk this year.

Hood's Hosta Habitat II is the joint effort of Dennis and Connie Hood and many volunteers. It began three years ago with 150 hostas brought from their previous home in Elgin. The current gardens now include 450 hostas enriched by numerous clematis, hydrangeas, native plants, and multiple young shrubs and trees.

"Our gardens are a combination of wild life habitat with a hosta overdose" says Connie. "In addition, there are native and perennial accents with trees and shrubs that attract humans as well as birds, insects and small mammals. It is a four season kaleidoscope of plant life.

We have included both natural elements such as rocks and logs, as well as splashes of color from flags, wind socks and even an obelisk. You will find several seating



areas where you can absorb the breeze and the sound of birds (and a lawn mower or two). There are chimes in strategic locations that give even more depth to the garden persona. Oh, oh! We almost forgot Maude, our sprite. She adds the last element---water---to make the garden atmosphere complete.

Please note that our new landscape is largely sun infested. Our blended grounds include plantings of spring bulbs, iris, day lilies, roses, yuccas, butterfly weed, lavender, & sedum. Amongst the minimally shaded hostas are coral bells, astilbe and fun shrubs such as pagoda dogwood and Japanese maples."

The Hoods inherited a well landscaped yard from the previous owner. They have expanded to 41 beds with a dual emphasis on hosta and wildlife habitat. "We have added features that encourage the presence of God's creatures. If you watch and listen, you may observe the fox squirrels playing, the Cooper's hawk hunting, the oriole singing and the bumblebees droning over the wide variety of plant life and a human face or two, enjoying the miracle of creation."

Directions: Your destination is 311 S. 3rd Street, Kirkland, IL 60146

Scenic route through small villages: Interstate 90 west to the Hwy 47 exit. South to Route 72 turn right west and journey through Hampshire, Genoa, and Kingston. Arrive on East side of Kirkland and look for 3rd street. Turn left, south and travel to 311 S. 3rd.

Faster route with minimum interruptions: travel Interstate 90 west to Irene Rd exit (I pass only) Go south on Irene Rd to Hwy 72. Go East on 72 through Kirkland to 3rd St. Turn right, south to 311 S 3rd.

From south or southwest suburbs: Take Tollway 88 west to the DeKalb (NIU) Glidden Road exit. North through NIU all the way to HWY 72. Turn left, west to Kirkland, to 3rd St. Turn left south to 311 S 3rd St.

Mark Rekoske Honored at MRHS Convention

Recently Mark Rekoske was awarded the DeEtta Montgomery Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to members of the Midwest Region Hosta Society. This award was presented to Mark at the MRHS hosta convention in Kansas City. Mark has been a major organizer of the MRHS' Winter Conference (formerly the Winter Scientific Meeting) for many years. Mark is also the Vice-President for Program with the NIHS. Congratulations Mark!

Photo by June Vandervest

The "DeEtta Montgomery Outstanding Service Award" was established in 2007. This award acknowledges a person or local society's contribution to benefit the Midwest Region Hosta Society.

Previous winners of this award are:

2007 - DeEtta Montgomery
(posthumously)
2008 - Roger Koopmans
2009 - Floyd Rogers
2010 - Audra and Fred Wilson
2011 - Irwin Johnson
2012 - Tom Micheletti
2013 - Carolyn Hamilton
2014 - Bob Olson
2015 - Barbara Schroeder
2016 - Lou Horton





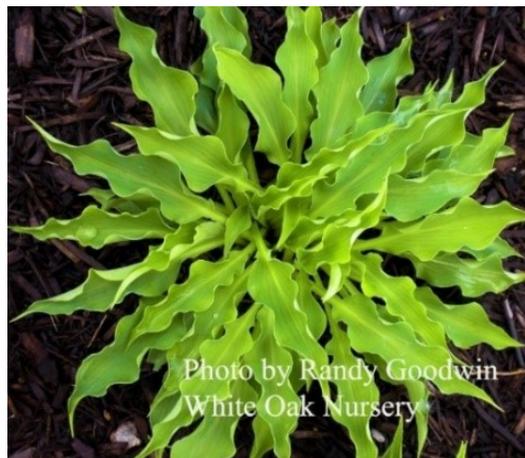
Over 700 Varieties available for the 2017 season.

Some in limited quantities, so order early.

New for 2017!

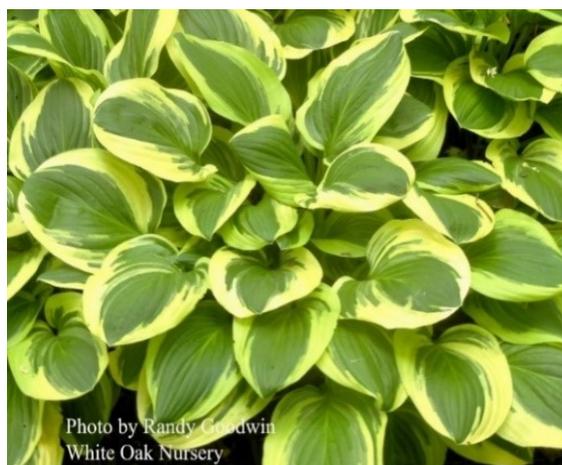
Twenty-five hosta introductions from Randy Goodwin!

Never released to the public, including the following.



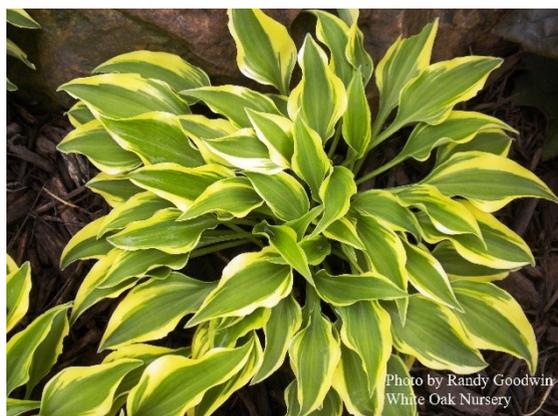
Hosta 'Aracus'

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



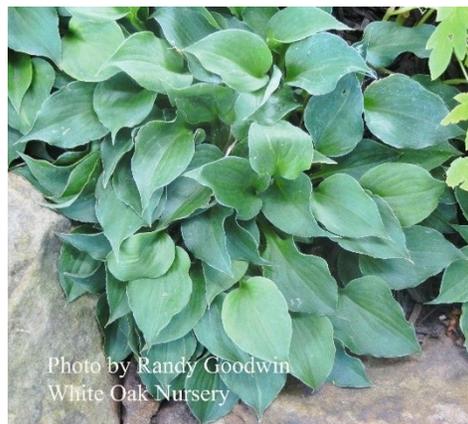
Hosta 'Happy'

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



Hosta 'National Treasure'

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



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

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www.whiteoaknursery.com

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

Moynihan Hosta Garden Walk Preview August 6

Susan Moynihan gardens in Schaumburg and will host the final garden walk of the season on Sunday, August 6. There are a few sunny areas, but the garden includes much shade for the hostas and other shade tolerant perennials. Susan provided the following description.

"We bought our home 20 years ago; $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre with lots of grass and typical evergreen foundation plantings around the home but miniscule beds in the back yard. Early on, we built some large berms. We brought in two large Douglas Fir trees and a Limber Pine to be the mainstay of the southern berm and added a Honey Locust to anchor the northern berm.

Over the years, as the trees grew they created a great deal of shade. I have added a plethora of plants. To mention some: astilbe, clematis, cacti, many ferns, hellebores, heuchera, hardy geraniums, numerous hydrangea, roses & tree peonies. We created a vegetable garden and I am developing a small woodland garden. Throughout the space I focus on native plants to attract butterflies and bees and just enhance the environment.

Originally the back of the lot was a border of old fashioned hostas which I moved all around the gardens. Then I began to add some unusual and sentimental vari-



eties. There are 'Blue Angels' which were given to me by my friend Ina just before she died. I saw 'Great Expectations' at the Flower and Garden Show a few years ago when it was the plant of the year. I received 'White Christmas' years ago from Hornbakers for my white garden. Last year friends found 'Marilyn Monroe' for me. And then there is 'Strip Tease'! I love the stature of 'Frances Williams' and 'Sum and Substance' and the petiteness of 'Mouse Ears'. Creating my hosta garden to attractively display my plants is a challenge, but I am learning. I look forward to your coming and visiting my gardens. I hope you will enjoy, give helpful advice, relax and "Make it a marvelous day."

Directions: Your destination is 1711 Columbine Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

From the west or southwest take northbound I-355 which becomes I-290 to the Higgins Road (IL-72) Exit. Turn left onto Higgins Road west and proceed 0.4 miles to Martingale Road. Turn left onto Martingale and take the first right turn onto Camella. Then take the first right onto Columbine. 1711 will be on the left.

From the north take IL 53 south to the Higgins road exit and proceed west on Higgins as above. From Chicago or if you are traveling on westbound I-90 proceed to the exit to I-290 East/IL 53 South and take I-290 for about one mile and exit right at Higgins Road and proceed as above.





Hollywood Bob Hosta Farm

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

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BITS AND PIECES

Pot up Hostas for Auction, Our annual fundraiser auction is coming up on Aug 13. Dig and pot your hosta donations now so they will look good for the auction.

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. July is still a great time for planting hostas if you keep them watered.

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.

Hold the Date, Oct 8, for the celebration of NIHS' 25th anniversary with special guest speaker Tom Micheletti. Look for more details next newsletter.

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

Frank and April Anguiano, Chicago

Katherine Ekstrom, Chicago

Nancy Reed, Grays Lake

Patrick Scianna & Sandra Jasso, Park Ridge

Colby & Reilly Straub, St. Charles



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 include email versions of 4 newsletters.

Email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com. Call Stevie at 630-377-9306. Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and visit us on Facebook.



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOW CAN I SUPPORT POLLINATORS?by Kim Ellson**What is the current buzz about pollinators?**

From the plight of the honeybee to the predicament of the Monarch butterfly, pollinators are increasingly in the news due to their drastic decline. The iconic honeybee and Monarch butterfly are however indicators of a far more widespread decline. There are over 4000 species of native bees and 700 species of butterflies in the US, and many of these are decreasing in numbers.

What are pollinators?

A pollinator is anything that transfers pollen between or within flowers, leading to fertilization and thus fruit and seed set. In Illinois pollinators are typically comprised of bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and insects. Without these beloved creatures, many of our fundamental crops would be lost, as 1 of every 3 mouthfuls eaten is dependent on bees. Pollination is also essential for seed set and therefore plant survival, so whether wildlife lover or not, we all depend on pollinators.

Why are pollinators declining?

Pollinator decline is due to a myriad of reasons:

- Widespread use of pesticides (Neonicotinoids especially)
- Lack of native plants
- Lack of good quality habitat
- Removal of winter nesting material
- Invasive pests, plants and diseases
- **What can I do?**
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use.



Spring blooming native Bluebells, Mertensia virginica.

- Grow native plants.
- Cultivate plant diversity.
- Select plants rich in pollen for foraging, and host plants for reproduction.
- Ensure a succession of blooms from early spring to late fall as a continuous food source.
- Plant in small groupings rather than individual plants.
- Reduce the size of your lawn.
- Practice natural lawn care; leave lawn clippings, apply compost/organic fertilizer, no pesticide use.
- Embrace flowers in your lawn; clover and dandelions are excellent pollen sources.
- Leave perennials over winter; do not cut down and remove plant materials. Many butterflies and bees overwinter in hollow plant stems or leaf litter.
- Allow leaf litter to remain.
- Avoid hybridized plants as these have little pollen; select natural forms.
- Provide a water source.

Continued next page

HOSTA HAPPENINGS

HOW CAN I SUPPORT POLLINATORS? CONTINUED

If you wish to provide a pollen source but are not ready to grow natives, find out which common garden plants are good pollen producers. Some are very suitable; Zinnias, Cosmos, sunflowers, marigolds, Alyssum, Crocus, Allium, Anemone, Sedum, yarrow, butterfly bush, Caryopteris and Russian sage. Allowing herbs to bloom is a simple way to support pollinators who cherish mint, borage, fennel, cilantro, thyme, lavender and rosemary.

Start small!

Do not think that you need to change your entire garden. With over 95% of land in Illinois privately owned, small changes can ultimately make a big difference.

Any changes you make will benefit not just pollinators, but also yourself, because sharing your garden with wildlife is such joy that once you experience it, suddenly the thought of a garden without life buzzing around seems bleak. So enjoy the tranquil calm of watching that special butterfly fluttering between plants on a sunny afternoon, whilst soaking up the



rich fragrance of your pollinator plants.

For information on sustainable gardening visit Conservation @ Home <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/conservationhome/>

Native plant pics clockwise from top - Rudbeckia triloba, brown-eyed susan; Aquilegia canadensis, columbine; and Echinacea pallida, pale coneflower.



Highlights of June Hosta Leaf Display

On June 3 & 4 at the Chicago Botanic Garden NIHS volunteers displayed nearly 200 different Hosta varieties/ cultivars. The display was well attended by the weekend visitors reported Barbara King. A seminar on hosta cultivation was presented by Lou Horton. The several vendors reported brisk sales.

Voting results for favorite leaf :

Here are the names of the winners selected by more than 200 voters, many saying it was impossible to pick just one (see pic below):

#1 Victory (the big, big one)

#2 Sharp Dressed Man (far left)

#3 Tie between

- Andrew (middle)
- Wheee! (right) Note: Wheee! Was the only hosta in the top 4 to repeat from last year.



Pics on right from top to bottom -

Displays set up by NIHS volunteers, Lou Horton delivering seminar, and over-view of leaves on display.

Photos by Barbara King & June Vandervest.



Cutworms and Damage to Hostas

By Lou Horton

Recently while working in the Hosta Display Garden at Cantigny, June Vandervest and I came across some leaf damage which was likely caused by cutworms but which could easily be mistaken for slug damage. June suggested that I put something together for this NIHS newsletter.

Cutworms are found all over North America and are the larval stage of a number of species of moths. The different species of cutworms will attack the plants on which they feed in different ways. Some will chew young plants off at the base at soil level. Some will attack the leaves of large leaved plants such as hostas. Such damage will often be mistaken for slug damage but will often differ in two important ways: the holes will often be large and irregular in shape and will often cross veins and/or the edge of the leaf.

Cutworm larva, the active immature form of a moth.



Cutworm damage on a hosta.

Cutworms will overwinter in either the pupae or larval stages with the larval stages becoming destructive earlier and often doing quite a bit of damage if the population density is great.

Cutworms can be controlled by the use of Carbaryl and other pesticides but I prefer to use *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (BT) which will only affect caterpillars (all caterpillars) and will not harm pollinators or birds. BT is a commonly available product and is a bacterium which causes the cutworms to cease feeding and die. One should apply the BT when the Cutworms are actively feeding such as now. It will not affect them once they change into adults.

Toads are natural enemies of both cutworms and slugs so you should encourage their presence in your garden.

The larva will begin to emerge from the soil as adult moths in late summer and they will lay the eggs that will become next year's cutworms.

Photos by Lou Horton.

June 18 Hosta Garden Walk in
McHenry



Dawn Anderson (top right pic in shorts) opened her shady back yard adorned with a multitude of hostas, trees and frogs (Top 2 pics on right and top pic on left.)

Ellen Michael (seated with her dog in left pic) relaxes enjoying the compliments and the garden views. Below left and right members enjoy discussing the plants and the balmy weather. Photos by Ron Asselborn



HOSTA HAPPENINGS

Rabbit Damage

By David Robson

Peter Rabbit looks so innocent with his little fluffy tail wiggling back and forth. Not to mention Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail. But there is garden evil imbedded in his DNA.

Rabbits are gnawers, loving to eat branches and bark (during the winter) and tender plants during the spring and summer. They'll munch grass down to the crowns, eat developing peony shoots, vegetable transplants, and some bulbous plants like lilies and tulips. They'll occasionally munch on hostas, but most severe hosta damage is usually from deer, which will devour the blade and leave the leaf petiole. Angular cuts or chewing is an indicator of rabbit damage. When feeding on woody twigs close to the ground, their angled cuts looks similar to those made by pruners.

Fruit plants are fair game during winter months, as are most shrubs including barberries, which goes to show the plant's barbs don't really protect the plant from hungry rabbits. Thin barked young trees are also fair game. Rabbits will feed close to the soil surface, and

A rabbit's typical angular cuts on a Hackberry shrub.



proceed higher on the plant by standing on their hind legs, reaching for the tenderer and less "barkier" limbs and buds. Rabbits have the ability to stand on snow, which wasn't a



problem in winter 2016-2017 but has been in previous years. Damage usually appears as stripped bark or gnawing on the woody tissue. Bark damage can kill the plant; damage from eating the stems from multi-stemmed shrubs tends to be minimal.

A rabbit may breed up to 5 times per year depending on the environment, with the typical litter consisting of 3 to 6 little ones. If the food source is plentiful, the population explodes.

Exclusion is the best control. A good fence, with at least 6" buried below ground to prevent the rabbit from digging or crawling under, is recommended. Chicken wire or hardware cloth cylinders can be erected around desired plants, again making sure to bury 6". Leave several inches between the wire and the trunk of any tree to prevent the rabbit's teeth from reaching the wood.

Repellents such predator urines, capsaicin (pepper) extracts or castor oil will provide some relief, but you must continue to reapply after rains.

Illinois law prohibits trapping or hunting rabbits out-of-season without permission from the IL Department of Natural Resources.

Scenes from AHS Convention,
Indianapolis



The AHS Indianapolis convention showcased 12 gardens for viewing. Several outstanding gardens were filled with hosta and wonder. The hosta exhibits included a huge judged Leaf Show (pic left, center).



Also in the show Hosta 'Purple Heart' (pic right, center) won Best of Section for leaves and Hosta 'Island Breeze' (pic right below) won for potted plants.



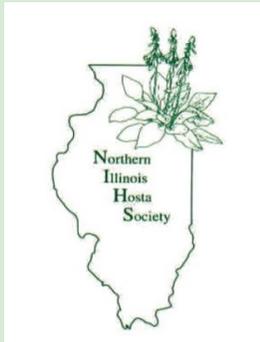
Photos by Ron Asselborn



NIHS Membership Secretary

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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.



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