





Doug Beilstein,
AHS President



President's Message

WOW!! I have just discovered a method to see rapid growth in my seedlings currently growing in the plant room in our basement!! Head to Siesta Key, Florida, the white sands and the warm temps for a few weeks, have somebody water them frequently, and presto -they doubled in size!! {:^)

I must admit that the winter weather here and most everywhere in hostaland has been downright frightful. The huge snows from Kansas to the East Coast all have one thing in common - a comfortable blanket of protection for our hosta. Another benefit, if you are looking for the bright side, is that the snow melt usually soaks in well.

Two things on my radar screen:

First – I've sent in my reservation for the **AHS National Convention** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this year. Jack Barta and Tom Micheletti have planned something special for us this year.

[AHS National Convention](#)

Second - it is past time to **renew your membership** in the AHS for this year. Invite a friend! We are seeking new members, and we're just waiting to turn them into hostaphiles. If you haven't renewed yet, follow this link.

[AHS Membership](#)

Hosta College is in my rear view mirror now. Over 350 hostaphiles, vendors galore, bookstore, classes on just about anything, auction, lunch and a banquet - something for all! If you have never been, it is time to check it out. Get it on your calendar for 2014!

Mardy and I had no more than gotten to Hosta College this year when we were called away to the birth of our grandchild. And another is on the way! Oh what a life... which is very good.

But I must admit there is one downside to that rapid seedling growth - time to transplant the seedlings to a bigger size tray and cull the ones that don't make the grade!! I often wonder how many 'keepers' I have inadvertently pitched over the years... {:^ (



Seedlings in the 'Beilstein Bunker'
Photos courtesy of Doug Beilstein

Back to the bunker!

Later, Doug
[Contact Doug Beilstein](#)



Rob Mortko,
Vice President Genus Hosta

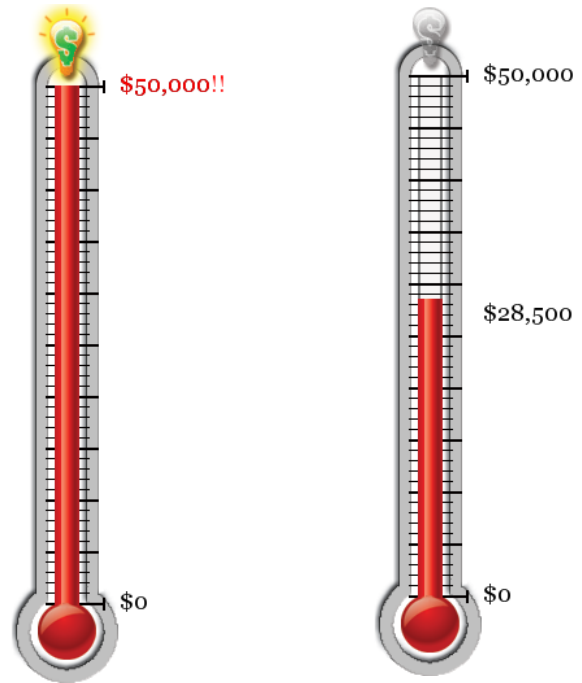
New AHS Nematode Research Program

The American Hosta Society’s proposed nematode research program was recently approved for a \$50,000 matching grant award by The Ohio State University. In all, over 50 grant applications were made to Ohio State’s SEEDS competitive grant research program. Our grant application was not only approved and funded, but was ranked very highly by the Ohio State SEEDS research committee panel.

We can now kick off the research program just as soon as we fund our 50% share of the overall research cost. Since we announced the proposed research program on January 9th, the support has been nothing short of incredible. To date, we have raised **57%** of the nominal \$50,000 required for our share of the research. Thank you so much. And yet, we still have a ways to go so that we may benefit from the matching grant funds.

We intend to actively manage this project and have formed an advisory committee to oversee the research. The committee will make a final review of the research methodology before we kickoff the research. Then we will monitor the research progress in real time and make any midcourse corrections as need be. The team has been intentionally seeded with a mix of relevant scientific, horticultural and research skill sets. The advisory committee consists of: Tony Avent, Steve Chamberlain, Patrick Coleman, Mark Hanner, Don Rawson, Bob Solberg, David Teager, and Mark Zilis.

One of the research items to be finalized is the list of chemicals to be tested. If you have a product or protocol that you have personally trialed (even with limited success), please let us know.



OSU Matching Funds

57% of AHS Funding Raised

If you have yet to make a donation to this research, now is the time to act. We invite all local and regional hosta societies to consider a generous contribution to this project. At the same time, we don’t want to underestimate the impact that individual contributions can make to this effort. As this is a two-year project, you may opt to make a one-time donation, or you may make a partial donation at this time and pledge additional funds for next year.



You can find more information about this research program on the AHS website at:

[Foliar Nematode Research Program](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I thank you in advance for your support.

Hosta’ly, Rob [Contact Rob Mortko](#)



Cindy Tomashek,
Vice President, Conventions

Greetings Hosta Friends!

With the warm sunshine, I am getting excited about the gardening season that will soon be upon us and am very anxious to see those first hosta pips emerging! Another reason to be excited is because I am sending in my registration for the 2013 AHS convention **"Escape to Wisconsin"** in Milwaukee, WI, June 13-15.

As you have heard, carpooling to the gardens will be offered rather than coach buses. In order to make the most of my tour experience, I up-sized my 4 passenger Prius and rented a 27 passenger mini coach bus **FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON ONLY** that will visit four private gardens (the "south" route) and make a pit stop at a Subway restaurant for anyone who missed lunch or needs a restroom (there is no restroom on the mini coach). The bus will pick up at the hotel at Noon on Friday and return by 4:00 PM.

We will all get to carpool to the other gardens on Saturday. This gives those of us on the bus a chance to tour without driving and still participate in the carpool. The cost for the Friday bus is \$25 per person payable to me. SOGHS members have been given first dibs on seats and several have signed up already, so please let me know ASAP if you want to reserve a seat.

Be sure to check the convention schedule so you don't end up with a conflict for something else you would really like to do. Since I'm not able to check out the routes in advance, there's a chance we'll have to alter plans slightly that day, but I'm confident it will be a very fun ride!

If you've taken a look at the **"Escape to Wisconsin"** schedule, you noticed what a terrific round up of speakers Jack and Tom have lined up for us. Plus there are opportunities to take Judging

Clinics I, II and III. The Hosta Show, Tour Gardens, Auction (it's time to be thinking about donating) and Vending will be fantastic, so what are you waiting for?? Send in your registration, make your hotel reservation today and plan your **"Escape to Wisconsin"**! I'll see you there!

Conventionally yours, Cindy

[Contact Cindy Tomashek](#)

P.S. I'm still waiting to start some conversations about the 2015 and 2016 AHS Convention venues... contact me today so we can get the ball rolling!



CZECH IT OUT!



2014 AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

JUNE 11-14, 2014



A view of Jack Barta's front garden in Cedarburg, WI



Sandie Markland,
Membership Secretary

Membership

The mailing list the first issue of *The Hosta Journal* for 2013 has been generated and the issue is already arriving in members' mailboxes. As usual, your 2013 AHS Membership Card will be printed on the mailing label which accompanies that issue. If you do not receive your copy by the 26th of April, please contact the AHS Membership Secretary to secure a replacement issue. There will be no membership card with the replacement issue.

It is important to keep the AHS Membership Secretary informed of changes in your contact information. If you do not receive AHS mailings due to an unreported change of address, a \$6.00 payment is required to cover the cost of shipping and handling for the replacement issue.

Please send address changes as promptly as possible. Individuals who travel between summer and winter homes should advise the Membership Secretary of their change of address approximately 6 weeks in advance.

All AHS Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 regardless of when an individual joins or renews. The year of your membership expiration immediately follows your name on the mailing sheet which accompanies each mailing you receive from the AHS. The second *Journal* mailing of each year (due out in late summer/early fall) is always accompanied by a renewal form. It is important to renew in a timely manner in order to avoid the \$5.00 late fee which MUST be applied to all renewals mailed or entered online after January 15 of each calendar year.

AHS Memberships make great gifts for your gardening friends - or great door prizes for your local club events!

Sandie

[Contact Sandie Markland](#)



Bob Olson,
Editor, *The Hosta Journal*

The Hosta Journal

Issue 44.1 of *The Hosta Journal* has been printed and sent to the Mailing House. It is now in the hands of the Postal Service, and you should be getting your copy soon if you haven't already received it.



This edition focuses on growing hostas in containers (vis-à-vis in the ground), and a number of experts share the principals involved and their experience.

The just-concluded photo contest was a huge success! We've never had so many high quality entries—and even better, the majority are from new contributors. You'll see the results in the summer issue of *THJ*.

Don't forget to vote in the popularity poll. It is online and very easy to do. But if you can't vote online send me a note or an email with your favorites. (You don't have to vote for exactly 25, vote for as many or as few as you please.) But please vote - we are closing this year's poll on April 15th.

Bob Olson

Editor, *The Hosta Journal*
2840 Glenhurst Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

[Contact Bob Olson](#)



H. 'Aphrodite' shelters 'Paradise Island' (left)
photo by Larry Tucker

H. 'Crystal Moon' - even the most amazing hosta might be container-grown. (right) photo by June Colley



Barb Schroeder,
Vice President Publications

Publications

The Publications Team has been busy with some exciting changes.

We have the spring 2013 *Hosta Journal* printed, and it should be to you by the time you read this. It includes the 2012 *Hosta Registration Book*. If you have not received it and think you should, be sure to contact Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland.

[Contact Sandie Markland](#)

The Online Journal went out “on time” on Thanksgiving Day. Hopefully, you have gone online and looked at it. It has wonderful convention photos as well as many articles. The Team did an excellent job again, and we are looking forward to this year’s release.

The Team has combined all the *Hosta Journals* from our many storage locations and inventoried them. We were disappointed to find that we do not have a complete set any longer. So to protect our legacy, we have scanned all the *Journals* and *Bulletins*, and they will be stored electronically so we will always have them.

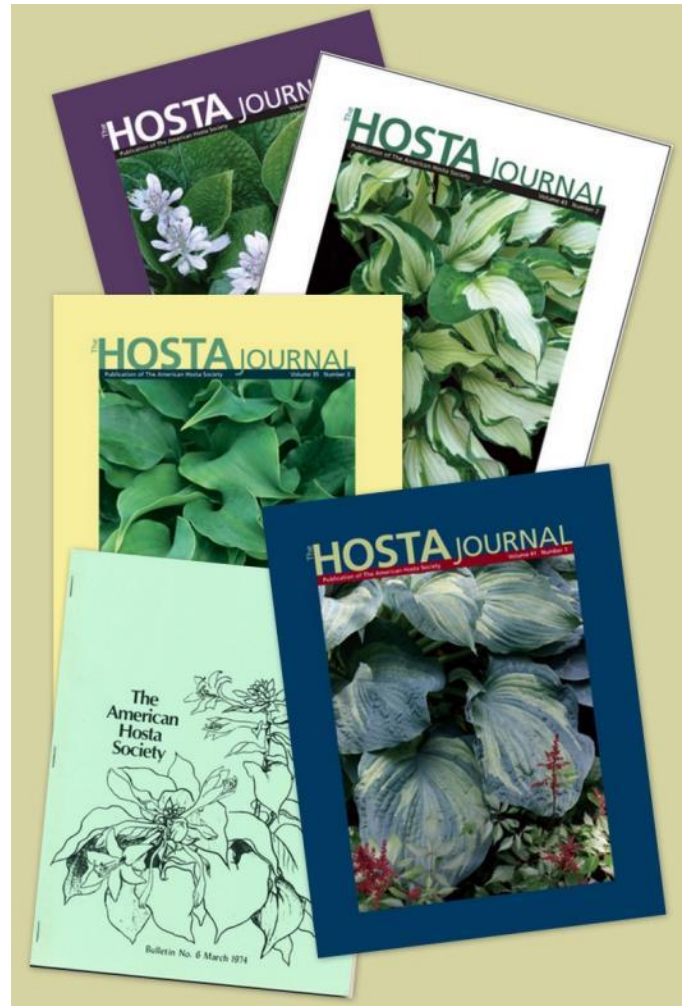
Since we did that, we decided to create a DVD of our current set - 1969 through 2012. Our plan is to announce the details and have DVDs available at our convention in Milwaukee. No orders will be taken before then. We will offer the DVD set (2 discs) for \$50.00 at the convention, and after the convention, they will be available for \$59.95. Please watch the AHS website to see when the DVDs are available.

Barb [Contact Barb Schroeder](#)

Partial Sets of *The Hosta Journal* - 1982 to 2012

We have also decided to offer partial sets of *Journals* at a special rate. Sets start with 53 and go down to 36 (all different issues) in each set for \$1.00 per issue plus \$15.00 shipping.

We still have some individual copies that we will also be selling until they are gone. We have kept five hard copy sets (almost complete) in our inventory for permanent reference. If you are interested in any hard copies, please contact me.





Andy Marlow,
Photo Editor,
The Hosta Journal

2013 AHS/Hosta Journal Photo Contest

The esteemed panel of judges has finished judging the 2012 *Hosta Journal* photo contest—and they were impressed! There were many entrants who had never competed before, and the competition in all categories was much more intense than in the past, especially in the hosta close-up and artistic impression categories. You'll see the winners in Volume 44.2 of *The Hosta Journal* which will be out in a few months.

I'm convinced that at least some of the increased level of interest is due to posting a story here in the AHS eNewsletter last year. I'm hoping a little reminder now will get everyone geared up for lots of picture taking during the coming growing season and entering lots of photos in the fall for the 2013 contest.

So, as a reminder, here are the rules.

You can enter up to 10 photos per category. Entries must be digital with a file size of at least 1 MB or a resolution of 300 d.p.i. so they will look good if published in *The Hosta Journal*. You can send them on a disc (CD or DVD) or email them to me a few at a time. If you are interested in using Dropbox as a way to submit photos, email me and I'll tell you how it works.

Andy Marlow
10700 Minnetonka Blvd
Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

[Contact Andy Marlow](#)

Photo Contest Categories

Category 1:

Best Hosta Close-up

And we do mean close-up! Focus on a single leaf or just a few at the most.

Category 2:

Best Picture of an Entire Mature Hosta Clump

Make sure it's a well-grown clump. Give us a sense of its total impact on the senses. Identify the cultivar and the grower's garden for us.

Category 3:

Best Landscape Picture Showing Multiple Clumps

Identify all of the hostas in the photo and keep the focus on hostas. Again, identify the plants and growers.

Category 4:

Best Landscape Picture Involving Hosta

Can include other plants, garden structures or other non-plant accessories.

Category 5:

Artistic Impression

Let your imagination run wild, but the photo must contain a hosta element. It can include digital manipulation ("Photo Shopping"), montage, wildlife, etc. If there are any people in the photo, they must be identified in the entry.



Chuck Zdeb,
Vice President
Judging & Exhibitions

Judging & Exhibitions

Spring begins the busy season for Judging and Exhibitions. Randy Goodwin is preparing and will shortly release the 2013 Benedict Award Ballot. In his article, he speaks briefly about the participation level of the eligible Garden Judges. Some ideas on how to increase the number of voting judges would be appreciated. If we cannot get more participants, we may reconsider the value of the Benedict Award System.

Many people still feel that the Benedict Award is somehow designed to reward or recognize the Originator/Registrar/Hybridizer. It is not. It is designed to recognize hosta that do well across the country. It is a PR tool for the AHS to tell prospective hosta buyers that these hosta will do well in your garden because they have done well across the country. Obviously, the wider the votes garnered for each cultivar the better. This system only works if most of the 170 or so judges actually vote for the hosta nominated.

Judy Burns has just about updated both the new Classification List and the new Judges List. Please see her article. Check the Judges list to verify your judges' status. Also, as you use the Classification List for your hosta shows, let Judy know if you find any errors that need correction.

Claudia Walker has joined the team as the new Shows Chair. Get your show schedules and entry tags orders (I have already stamped over 2000) to her as soon as possible. She is also working on a way to give judging credit to those of you who wish to judge nontraditional shows: state fairs, county fairs, first shows, exhibitions etc. Any ideas you have would be useful.

If you wish to have a Judges Clinic, please contact me for educational materials.

Chuck [Contact Chuck Zdeb](#)



Judy Burns,
Show Classification List Chair

Classification List Updated and Explained

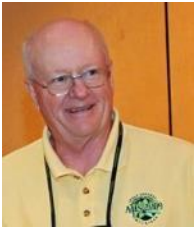
There were 192 new registrations in 2012. I am working on getting the new ones classified, and plan to have the list published on the website by April 15th. If you would like to have an Excel spreadsheet to use on a laptop at your show, please contact me AFTER April 15th, and I will email it to you. The file is fairly large, and some Internet providers will not handle it. However, I can provide a link for you to download it from my server.

Few people realize exactly what is involved in preparing this list. I receive the information from Kevin Walek, the Hosta Registrar, in late January. Then, using only the registered length and width, in inches, I multiply to get the number of square inches. Then, using the Table of Leaf Sizes, found in the Judges Handbook, I assign the section first. Then, I re-sort the list, this time by center color, and apply the class designations, again based on the Table of Leaf Color, found in the Handbook (Section II H).

At this point, it becomes more complicated, since few of the new registrations ever are simply "green" or "blue" or "yellow." I spend a lot of time puzzling over whether "slightly greenish yellow" is greener than yellow or more yellow than green. Once the sections and classes have been assigned, the list is formatted for printing.

Three different versions are published each year. The first contains only the current new registrations for the previous year. The second one is the Full list, containing the current year's list, merged with all the previous years' lists. This one is getting pretty long, so the challenge is to keep the number of pages to a minimum for printing, yet still be legible.

(continued on page 11)



Randy Goodwin,
The Benedict Garden
Performance Chair

The Benedict Garden Performance Medal

With a growing list of Benedict Garden Performance Medal winning hostas previously selected, it is time again for Garden Performance Medal judges to start considering favorites from among the originator nominated cultivars on the forthcoming 2013 ballot. Ballots will be sent to judges by April 15th. Note, responses can be made by USPS mail or email until the end of the 2013 voting period on October 15th.



The Benedict Garden Performance Medal

Ballot numbers continue to decline in both numbers of judges voting and numbers of cultivars being nominated. With nominations, that is to be expected. Nominators are realizing that a favorite newly registered cultivar may be vote worthy, but if only found in the registrant's garden, judges will have little cultivar knowledge, and thus no vote. The lesson learned, nominate only those cultivars with distribution. With many of the better known hostas now in or having passed through the Benedict process, many older favorites are now past memories. This declining trend could be solved with continued nominations from registrants of well distributed cultivars or by nominations from the board from deceased registrant's hybrids. The number of candidates could also swell with a re-nomination process from past candidates. This

would be facilitated through the board with suggestions on implementation welcomed from all.

The decline in voting (51 votes in 2012) may be attributed to several reasons. One may be the newness having worn off. Another is the large number of unknown nominated cultivars creating raised frustration levels. Hopefully, a smaller better known candidate field will help eliminate this situation. Having judges vote for the maximum number of cultivars suggested at each level would also help improve results.

An increased number of judges would also help in making the vote totals more valid. The perception of garden judges may be a part of the problem. Since all show judges were grandfathered as garden judges, membership may still be under the assumption that being a judge is too demanding or time consuming. A suggestion to current judges would be to educate hosta friends as to the difference between the two judges. Being a garden judge requires only a working knowledge of cultivars and an interest in being able to discern perceived quality. Voting on a once a year ballot is the only obligation. With that in mind, hand a hosta friend an application. It's found on the AHS web site under BPG judging.

Randy

[Contact Randall Goodwin](#)





Judy Burns,
Judges Records Chair

Judges Records Update

The 2013 List of Eligible AHS Judges will be published by March 15, so it should already be available online.

As you may recall, in the fall of 2011, I sent out a request to each judge for a one-time only special update to help bring the records current. I got a fairly good response, although some prodding was necessary to get all the responses in to get the 2012 list out on time.

The result of the special update was that we heard from a number of judges who had not had any judging activity in several years. Some Master Judges asked to be placed on Emeritus status, due to advancing age, health problems or lack of judging opportunities. Some others, who were Senior Judges resigned for similar reasons. However, the good news is that we have a new crop of judges being qualified.

Another benefit is that there is a clean demarcation point for providing updates in the future.

Master Judges are required to provide an update every three years, so the next update is due in 2015 for all Master Judges.

Senior Judges are required to update every four years, but are expected to qualify to move up to Master Level within three years, if possible.

(Provisional Judges are expected to move up to Senior status within four years, so the application for Senior status would count as an update. If you are a currently a Provisional Judge, you should carefully examine your qualifications, and apply for Senior status as soon as you meet all the requirements, as outlined in Section III-B1 of the Handbook.)

Before the judging season, please take time to carefully read over the requirements listed in Section III of the Handbook, and make sure you are ready for the upcoming judging season. Remember that, in addition to actually judging, you need to participate in other aspects of staging a show: clerking, acting as placement or judging chair, or as show chair or co-chair. Also, Master Judges are expected to help hold clinics and encourage new judges to qualify in your area. This is an especially important function because it helps to cultivate new judges.

And one other thing: please do not send in updates to me each year. This is a very time consuming job, and more frequent updates just make extra work for me. It is your responsibility to keep up with your records and to comply with all of the requirements.

To assist you in keeping track of your own records, I suggest putting a copy of the update form in the very front of your Handbook. Each time you judge or otherwise participate in a show, write down your activities. You'll always have a record handy, and when time comes to send it in, you will have it all ready.

Judy

[Contact Judy Burns](#)



Randy Goodwin's 2002 Best Seedling in Show

photo by Randy Goodwin

Classification List Updated and Explained

(continued from page 8)

The final list is a condensed version of the full list. This list contains only the variety, section and class, omitting the Leaf sizes, colors and other data. Some societies prefer to print only the short list, since it is considerably cheaper to print.

I always get a lot of questions regarding “suggested” changes to the classification list. The only rule about the classification of leaves comes from the Show Judges Handbook, Section II H. It simply states that the classification is based on the Registration data, provided by the Hosta Registrar.

Many people, even some of our Master Judges, seem to misunderstand how the classifications work. Especially regarding size, the Show Classification List Chair has very little latitude about how things are divided. The Table of Leaf Sizes and Colors has five sections (size), in square inches. So, a leaf that calculates to 6 inches is a Section IV, not a Section V. The table says that a leaf of LESS THAN 6 square inches is Section V, so one that is exactly 6 square inches, is Section IV.

An important thing to remember is that the square inches are based NOT upon an actual measurement of each leaf, but on the calculated area, based on the registered leaf size. Obviously, leaves are not square. However, the whole classification scheme is merely a way to give structure to the Hosta Show. The Show Classification Sections is pertinent only to Shows, and doesn't have any usage for garden planning. This is because the Leaf Size often has very little to do with the size of the actual plant growing in the ground.

There has been a very intense ongoing controversy about very small hostas for a number of years. The extensive popularity of smaller hostas has some folks in a frenzy about how their favorite hostas are “classified” in shows. I do not wish to get into the middle of it, because it is not really germane to the Show Classification. Just remember that the Show Classification List is ONLY used for Placement purposes at hosta shows. It's just a way to make it

simpler, and more importantly, quicker, to hold hosta shows.

So, if your favorite “mini” happens to fall into Section IV, don't be offended, it's just the way it is. The controversy will rage on, probably.

The AHS is considering forming a committee to consider how to deal with some longstanding problems with the classification list. There is currently no satisfactory procedure for correcting errors in the registration data. These can occur for a number of reasons. One possibility is that the original information submitted was taken when the hosta was immature, and that the hosta later stabilized into a larger (or smaller) form. Hostas that are tissue cultured are prone to mutate, causing the plants available in the trade to be different from the plant that was described at registration. Whatever the reasons, there are a number of problems that need to be addressed, but no real means exists to correct them.

If you have any ideas about setting up a procedure for dealing with this issue, please contact me. I would like to assemble some ideas from various people so we can establish a committee and some procedures for making the list more dynamic and relevant. Please email me with your ideas and suggestions. At this point, I'm more interested in ways to deal with the problems than the actual cultivars needing corrective action, so do think about how we can go about this.

Judy

[Contact Judy Burns](#)



H. 'All That Jazz'

photo by Duane Hurlbert



Claudia Walker,
Hosta Show Chair

Hosta Shows

My name is Claudia Walker, a member of the Georgia Hosta Society, AHS, and the new person in charge of Hosta Show schedules, under the Vice President Judging & Exhibitions, Chair, Chuck Zdeb.

As a charter member of the Georgia Hosta Society, and under the tutelage of George Schmid, I have been involved in every aspect of an accredited Hosta Show for the past twenty years. I also have had the opportunity to judge shows at the AHS national conventions as well as serving on Show committees. I have served in the past on the AHS board in several positions as well serving as the AHS Judges Chair several years ago.

To me, Hosta Shows educate the public about hostas, bring a sense of community to local societies, enlighten the individual on what is new and available, provides a place for Judges to practice their skills and provide a setting to show off the variety of Hostas available to the public. If your society has been reluctant to stage a Hosta Show, I hope you will contact me and share your society's concerns. I know that we can work out a solution that is comfortable and fun for your group.

Did you know that within the show schedule there are ways to stage a show that fits the needs of each society? Did you know that there are hosta shows that focus on the hosta flowers? Did you know that there is a way to single out just about anything that your society might want to feature? I encourage you to be creative and explore the opportunity you have to bring a hosta show to your community!

There are several points that you need to be aware of for your show.

Entry tags now offer an additional line showing the

size of the registered leaf. The entry tags that we still have in stock are in the process of being "stamped"; however, if you still have entry tags from prior orders that you do not have stamped, please let me know and we will "loan" you the stamp. Entry tags are 10 cents each, plus the shipping.

Also, the AHS board voted that the Show Chair must be an AHS Judge. If your society cannot meet this rule at this time, please contact me, and we will work out a solution that fits your situation.

Creative Hosta Shows are fun and educational. I am very interested in hearing your ideas for your show! Remember, there is no problem that we cannot work out! So, urge your society to step out of the box and put on a Hosta Show!

Claudia [Claudia Walker](#)



Don Dean,
AHS Online Auction Chair

AHS Online Auction

The 2013 Online Auction has been completed and was a great success once again. Take a few moments and view the results at [AHS On-Line Auction Results](#). Our webmaster, Josh Spece, has completed and posted the results. Be sure to peruse the 'Big Bid Items' found there as well; descriptions and photos of the top bid gainers of each year can be found by clicking upon those items.

Jojo and I extend a sense of gratitude and a round of applause on behalf of the entire society to the many donors, bidders, and individuals that offered tech support. Their generosity is what makes the auction possible and enables the AHS to continue providing the experiences we have grown to appreciate and look forward to each year. Special thanks once again to Bob Axmear for use of his website and Bill Meyer for the perennial technical support provided.





Mary Ann Metz,
Vice President Member Services

Member Services

Happy Spring Everyone!

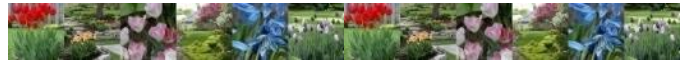
It's the new kid again and I need to make an apology right away. I asked several questions of you in the last eNewsletter, and one of them led to some misunderstandings. I asked what you thought of an electronic membership that did not include paper mailings. I should have stressed that this type of membership is an addition to what the AHS already has in place. The electronic membership is not meant to take the place of regular memberships. *The Hosta Journal* and other publications are not going away. I really enjoy turning pages and having that publication on my desk or beside my favorite reading chair, and I'm quite sure most all of our members do also. So that said, we are making an attempt to reach out to young and old alike who would rather have electronic communications than printed material. Thanks to all of you who responded to my questions.

Now I have some really great news! Jeff Miller, owner of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm with his wife, Penny, has made a huge commitment to the AHS and its members. Jeff, who admittedly eats, sleeps and drinks hostas and hosta information, has taken up the challenge of creating educational videos for the AHS website. Jeff says, "I wanted to get involved with the AHS to open up more learning opportunities for myself and to help build a bridge between people and the AHS. I am honored to be a part of many hosta organizations and to start creating videos on every concept there is to growing hostas including, but not limited to, growing, hybridizing, fertilizing, pests and diseases." He says this will be done in the form of a "family tree" that can be added to continuously. Click on insects and a list will appear of known problems. Click on your problem and information about that insect will appear.

What a gift to the AHS and its members! Can you imagine a video of how to divide a hosta, or how to hybridize a hosta? The possibilities are endless. I would like to personally thank Jeff for his commitment to the AHS and hope that if you have ideas of what you would like to see that you will share them with him. Please contact Jeff with your ideas. [Contact Jeff Miller](#) Everyone please welcome Jeff Miller, our new Public Relations Chair, and I say let's flood him with ideas.

Best Regards to All, Mary Ann

[Contact Mary Ann Metz](#)



Michael Shadrack,
Vice President Awards & Honors

An Invitation to Sponsor a Hosta Show Award

From time to time the American Hosta Society seeks sponsors for its various awards. We ask Regions, local Societies, or individuals to commit to sponsor an award for a three year period. Sponsors are asked to provide a suitable gift as an award that is presented at the National Convention Awards Banquet.

For many years, Jan Everson and Sarah Dapra have sponsored the Hosta Show Award for the "Best Trough or Container Garden Arranged for Effect", but their sponsorship has now come to an end.

If a reader would like to sponsor the Division II & III "Best Trough or Container Garden Arranged for Effect" winner at the National Convention Hosta Show, as an individual or through their local Society, please contact me. I can promise you a warm smile, grateful thanks and a smidgen of good publicity.

Michael [Contact Michael Shadrack](#)





Don Dean,
Editor, *The Online Journal*

The Online Journal 2013

The Online Hosta Journal team is already on the job working toward bringing our members this year's issue following the convention in Milwaukee. Much work is yet to be started. One topic in particular warrants special attention with the spring approaching, already arrived for some of our lucky members.

Photos! There is no better time than early in the season to catch many hosta and companion plants in their prime. Other plants will certainly strut their best features as the growing season progresses (keep the cameras handy). We encourage any members with a willingness to get out into their own, friends', and public gardens and take photographs. Specimen plants, special color combinations that you find appealing, and landscape shots are desired to help both *Journal* groups attain their mission to bring our membership the best possible publications, whether it is online or in print. Having a 'bank' of quality photographs from which to select is the goal. Some articles get submitted complete with a photo array; however, we often receive a quality article but have to search for good photographs to support the article. Yes, we will need convention garden and event photographs, but much more!

When submitting your photos, please send them the size that they were shot in your camera. Some editing and email software shrinks the pictures to a size that is unusable for publication. Pre-cull your photos for your best shots. Consider framing, focus, and exposure. Cropping and any adjusting will be completed on our end. Please label each photo or supply a simple index in a word document for each photo or group of photos submitted. Include your name so that we can credit you, and the location where the shot was taken. (Example: Dean garden).

Photo / Content / Location / Photo By



IMG_2288 / mix sun/shade /
Dean garden July 23 / DDean



Dean 3.JPG / landscape / Dean
garden July 24 / DDean



Leather and Lace 3-46-5 - 4 /
leaf 'Leather and Lace' /
Dean garden / DDean



Leather and Lace 3-46-5 /
clump 'Leather and Lace' /
Dean garden - DDean

Or simply place in a folder labeled Dean photos in Dean garden (for this example) and list photo and content.

Together, the publications that we all look forward to receiving can only get better.

We welcome new and innovative ideas, articles of interest, and suggestions. Continue to contact me, if you have ideas, by going to any masthead in any version of *THJ* or *OLJ* for the contact details.

Happy gardening on behalf of the *OLJ* Team,

Don

[Contact Don Dean](#)

2013 AHS Convention



Time is marching on! It's getting to be time to register for your "**Escape to Wisconsin**", this summer's convention being held for the first time in the Milwaukee, WI area. The dates are June 13-15, and registration is only \$139. The hotel is the Sheraton-Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel. As there is an automobile race in town the same weekend, rooms are at a premium! The rate is only \$105, which includes a hot buffet breakfast. Reserve your room now by calling, [1-800-325-3535](tel:1-800-325-3535) or [1-262-364-1100](tel:1-262-364-1100).

Hotel Room Update:

As of April 4th, all double rooms in the block have been reserved. King beds are still available.

Plans for this summer's convention are moving along very well. At this time, Jack and I have good news and bad news! The good news is that members have heeded our warning about booking their rooms early due to the automobile race in Milwaukee the same weekend. We reserved rooms based on the past 2 convention room pick-ups, and the response has been very exciting. The bad news is the Sheraton-Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel has sold out of rooms for that weekend. Jack scoured the area for additional rooms, only to find similar sold out situations in other local hotels. He did come up with additional rooms at a nearby Quality Inn. It is about 2 miles from the Sheraton.



Quality Inn

20150 West Bluemound Road

Brookfield, WI 53045

[262-785-0500](tel:262-785-0500)

The rate for this hotel is \$89 per night for a Double room and \$84 per night for a King bedroom. The rate includes a hot breakfast at the Quality Inn. The rooms will be held for us until May 15, after which time they will be released. Mention "AHS Convention" when making reservations to get this rate. Please act now to ensure your hotel reservations!

Escape to Wisconsin



As I mentioned, this is the first time the AHS has come to Milwaukee. We have 10 beautiful private gardens to tour (some of which have been previewed in previous eNewsletters) plus the Boerner Botanical Garden which is a world-class garden in itself. You could spend a whole day there alone. As a matter of fact, you may wish to come early or stay late and leisurely explore this botanical treasure.

[Boerner Botanical Gardens](#)

Milwaukee has a rich cultural heritage that you could also take in either before or after the convention. Check out our website for suggestions and previews of the gardens and all the events being planned.

www.2013ahsconvention.com

There is also a link on the AHS homepage, www.hosta.org, which will take you to our website.

Since there is much consternation surrounding the fact that we are asking attendees to carpool to gardens, we are holding a meeting on Thursday at the hotel called "Meet & Greet & Garden Tours" from 8 PM to 9 PM to go over garden tours, and begin to pair up drivers with those needing rides and to answer questions. We will also begin handing out directions and maps at this meeting. Directions and maps will also be handed out on Friday morning before garden tours at the registration desk.

Thank you from Jack and Tom for your support of this summer's AHS convention.

For more information, contact Tom Micheletti or Jack Barta, co-chairs of the convention.

[Contact Tom Micheletti](#)

[Contact Jack Barta](#)

Dale Sievert Garden

Dale Sievert's garden consists of one acre of meticulously maintained land. While from the front yard passersby would not believe a gardener lives in the modest home, follow the path around the side of the garage and the gardens begin to unfold into a carefully planned and maintained back yard. Dale loves mosses and has used them extensively. Troughs and planters with mosses and companion plants have been placed strategically throughout the garden.

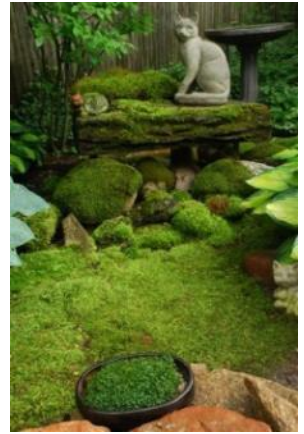
The shady backyard has also become a trial ground for numerous hosta varieties. He began with the common hostas available at local nurseries, but has added many newer varieties that suit his landscape plan and strike his fancy. If they don't perform well or he doesn't like their placement, he is not afraid to move them.

Recently, Dale has been adding stonework features that he creates himself. It began a few years ago when he hired a stone mason to build a wall, but upon completion Dale found it was not level and the stones were unevenly placed. For his next stone project, he figured he couldn't do any worse and started building stone features throughout the garden. Stone paths, stone walls, waterfalls, and many more features continue to be added to the garden. With each one, Dale masters his technique and each feature is getting more complicated and interesting.

This is a garden that will inspire you to get out and do some gardening.

In keeping with previous eNewsletters, we want to entice you with some photos from another of the tour gardens, the garden of Dale Sievert.

We hope you will join us and "Escape to Wisconsin"!





Cindy Tomashek,
Vice President, Conventions

Why I LOVE the AHS!

My love for the AHS began over 15 years ago when I received my first *Hosta Journal* as a new AHS member. The stunning photos of hostas were captivating and the depth of hosta information was satisfying while also heightening my interest. Already deeply smitten with hostas and an avid collector for over a decade, I discovered there were actually annual conventions held by the AHS – and I noted that one was coming up in Minnesota. My family declared me certifiably insane. (They were in disbelief that there more hostaphiles like me out there!) Knowing not a soul upon arrival, I quickly found myself in conversation with Bonnie Busson, and one morning, sharing breakfast with Nancy Minks. Everyone was SO friendly...

I was completely amazed by the AHS's ability to bring people together from around the country and beyond who shared a love of hostas. I carry with me today visions of Betty Peterson's garden with its gorgeous drifts of *Adiantum venustum*, beautiful hostas and river view. Back-of-the-bus banter and laughter from Mary Schwartzbauer, Kim Larsen and Don Dean on that first garden tour... sounds I've been privileged to hear many times since then. With their encouragement and support, I eventually unearthed a treasure trove of hostaphiles closer to home and started Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE MN which has become my personal support group.

Among this ever-expanding web of great friendships are people who make extremely long car rides to Hosta College and Winter Scientific an absolute pleasure and something to look forward to each year. (Thanks Tom, Becki, Mary, Kim, Mona, Don, Bob and Gregg!). I've found friends who will tow you along to Wedding Extravaganzas and go with you to try on mother-of-the-bride dresses

(thanks Mona!). Friends who will go with you to visit your ailing sister-in-law (thanks Vickie!), and many more who continue to check on Sandy and keep her in their prayers. Sandy has been my Hosta Buddy at conventions since 2001 when she offered to accompanied me to the AHS National Convention in Raleigh, and we became great friends through our hosta-related travels. She continues her fight against cancer, so keep her in your prayers.

The AHS has shown me that hostas are a lot like people - or is it the other way around? They look good when they're young, better when mature... smooth is nice, but wrinkles are more interesting... all colors are beautiful, the more colors the better... upright is good, but low-lying can be respectable... likeability is not dependent on smelling good, but sweet fragrance is appreciated... there's a place for the common and the uncommon... character is welcome and appreciated.

When you join the AHS and become engaged by attending conventions (see you in Milwaukee!) or helping out in one of the multitude of board positions or committees, you will discover there is a wonderful history around the *Friendship Plant* of sharing knowledge and building lasting friendships that will draw you in and make you wonder why you waited so long.

Excuse me, but we're having a snow day and the new *Hosta Journal* arrived this week...

Conventionally yours, Cindy



From left to right - Cindy Tomashek, Susy Olsen, Sandy Tomashek, Linda Orleff, and Mona Keehn in the Don Dean garden in 2010. Photo courtesy of Cindy Tomashek



We are feeling lucky! Lucky to be returning to a former venue for First Look in 2013.

This year First Look will be in Connecticut, with setup and socializing on Friday, June 7, everything else that is First Look on Saturday, June 8, and garden tours on Sunday, June 9, 2013. Our home base will be the Doubletree Hotel at Bradley Airport, where First Look 7 was held in Windsor Locks, CT.

If you are a hosta hybridizer or have found a new seedling or sport in your garden, this will be the perfect Regional meeting to attend, socialize with your fellow hosta fanatics and maybe win some prizes. All of our fun contests will be back this year, our favorite vendors will be right on site, and of course the First Look Seedling and Sport Competition where you might win a \$300 prize for the best new seedling or best new sport of your own finding. Complete details are being fine-tuned and added to our website each day.

So, save the dates, and look for complete details at our website: <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/> - where registration forms, contest details, directions, and tour gardens will be found.

If you are an AHS judge in need of credits or a Clinic, Kathie Sisson will be holding a Clinic III and if there is interest, a Clinic I will also be held. And we just received accreditation for show judging! Come to First Look 13, and change your luck!

Hope to see you there!



THE GREAT LAKES REGION HOSTA SOCIETY

PRESENTS

HOSTA TAILGATE 2013

HOSTED BY

THE NORTHWEST INDIANA HOSTA SOCIETY

ON

JUNE 28, 29 AND 30, 2013

LOCATION:

THE GARDENS OF

BEV AND DAVE STEGEMAN

1202 LAKE DRIVE, CHESTERTON, IN

**You do not have to be a
GLR Hosta Society Member to attend,
but**

**YOU MUST R.S.V.P
BY JUNE 21 TO:**

[Click Here for Reservations](#)

**There will be a \$5 charge for the Hog
Roast - advance registration is required.**



[Click Here for More Information](#)

or

[Contact Indiana Bob \(aka Bob Balitewicz\)](#)

MEMPHIS

Home of the Blues
Birthplace of Southern Hosta tality

Hello, fellow Hosta enthusiasts,

I hope you have already marked your calendars and saved the dates of June 7 and 8 to attend the 2013 Dixie Regional Hosta Convention in Memphis, TN, hosted by the Mid-South Hosta Society. This promises to be a wonderful convention full of interesting speakers, lovely gardens, fun contests, and wonderful fellowship with other hostophiles.

The convention will be held at the beautiful Hilton Memphis, conveniently located just off of I-240 in the quiet east Memphis suburbs.

Several MSHS members are paying particular attention to their gardens this year, preparing to show off during the garden touring times.

On Friday, we will have lunch at the Dixon Gallery & Gardens, a fine art museum within 17 acres of gardens. Dale Skaggs, Dixon's Director of Horticulture, will be welcoming us and telling us a bit about the gardens.

Saturday, our lunch will be at the Memphis Botanic Garden. After lunch we will tour the Botanic Garden's Official American Hosta Society National Display Garden, one of only two so designated gardens in the Southeastern United States.

Besides the garden tours, we have some wonderful speakers scheduled. In order of appearance:

Dr. Chris Cooper, UT Shelby County Extension Service's Extension Agent, Coordinator for the Master Gardener program in Shelby County and host of WKNO-TV's *The Family Plot, Gardening in the Mid-South*.

Carol Reese, UT Extension Service Ornamental Horticulture Specialist in Jackson, TN, writer of a weekly gardening and nature column for the *Jackson Sun* and Q&A columnist for *Horticulture Magazine*.

Rob Mortko, aka "The Hosta Guy", well-known hosta hybridizer and owner of Made in the Shade Gardens (in Olathe, KS) which is ranked #1 for mail-order hostas and carries over 500 varieties.

Rita Randolph, life-long horticulturist, photographer and published author, recent recipient of *The Sterling Award* as one of the top 20 influential women in West Tennessee for her educational works. Rita's presentations are enjoyed across the country as she enthusiastically shares her knowledge and creativity.

Felder Rushing, 10th-generation American gardener, author of 18 garden books, syndicated columnist and host of NPR-affiliate radio program *The Gestalt Gardener*.

We have a variety of vendors coming. You won't have any trouble finding a several new hostas to feed your addiction.

Speaking of new hostas, you will be receiving a lovely, brand new hosta as a convention gift. It's a beautiful blue hosta called H. 'Memphis Blue,' hybridized by well-known breeder, Olga Petryszyn.

Don't forget to bring your contest entries. You can enter once in each of the six divisions:

- **Hosta Leaf**
- **Blue Hosta**
- **Hosta and Companion Plant Grouping**
- **Hosta Garden Landscape**
- **Variegated Hosta**
- **Creative Hosta Photo**

The design contest is Elvis-themed and has five divisions. Again, one entry per division.

- **"All Shook Up"**: Hostas mixed with other perennials
- **"Hound Dog"**: Hostas in a pet or animal theme
- **"Blue Hawaii"**: Hostas in a beach or tropical scene
- **"Heartbreak Hotel"**: Hostas with garden hardscape
- **"Love Me Tender"**: Garden of miniature hostas

We hope to have lots of contest entries! Entries will be accepted at the convention registration desk.

Finally, please do bring a hosta or other item for the live auction. The live auction is the chief fundraiser for the Dixie Region and if you have been to a hosta convention, you know that the auction is always loads of fun!

Be sure to send your registration in by May 1st to get the best rate. You'll find the registration forms on the MSHS website. [Mid-South Hosta Society](#)

We look forward to your visit. We're going to have lots of fun! Don't miss out!

In hosta friendship,

**Mid-South Hosta Society
2013 Dixie Regional Planning Committee**

MRHS Convention 2013

HOSTAMANIA

IS SPREADING

THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST!

Local hosta societies throughout the Midwest are being asked to identify members afflicted with the malady called **HOSTAMANIA!** The Northern Illinois Hosta Society has developed intensive treatment options that will be available only to those who come to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Lisle, IL, July 11 – 13, 2013. **HOSTAMANIA** is the unstoppable second stage of hostaholicism, which was most thoughtfully addressed at the 2012 MRHS Convention by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeastern Minnesota.

Symptoms of HOSTAMANIA

include:

- * **Persistent feelings that one possesses an inadequate number of hostas**
- * **A shortage of exceptional hosta gardens to visit in the sufferers' hometowns**
- * **Limited opportunity to learn even more about hostas and other plants**
- * **Not enough occasions to interact with other hosta lovers**

Among the therapies offered at the convention:

- * **Ten vendors of the latest hosta varieties, companion plants, and more**
- * **Hosta auction and leaf show**
- * **A tour of ten beautiful, private gardens that feature countless hostas**
- * **Opportunities to visit renowned public gardens**
- * **Seminars led by popular, knowledgeable speakers**
- * **Lots of fellow HOSTAMANIACS who are crazy about hostas**

Nutrition issues will be the focus of two dinners at the headquarters treatment facility, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (HMHQ). Many excellent restaurants are nearby for other meals.

The cost of addressing the **HOSTAMANIA** disorder is quite reasonable: a fee of \$119 covers all remedies mentioned above. Accommodations at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton cost only \$96 per night plus tax; full breakfast, pool, workout room, and parking are included.

[Lisle/Naperville Hilton](#)

Additional information at [MRHS 2013](#) will be updated regularly.





Josh Spece,
AHS Web Editor-in-Chief

2012 AHS Popularity Poll

It is time to cast your votes for the annual AHS Hosta Popularity Poll! Now that Spring is finally here, take a 'mental' stroll through your garden to refresh your memory of your favorite hostas, then log on and vote.

Popularity Poll voting is only open to AHS members so once you are on the American Hosta Society website (click on the link below), click the **“Members”** link along the left side of the page. You will then need to enter the member's password. The password is published in *The Hosta Journal*. If you do not have your journal handy, you can contact the AHS Membership Secretary for the password. Once you enter the password, click **“Submit”**. [AHS Website](#)

You are now logged into the "Members Only" area of the website. You can access the Popularity Poll voting page by clicking the **“Popularity Poll”** link on the left side of the page.

Once you are on the Popularity Poll voting page scroll down to the bold heading that says **“OnlineVoting”** and follow the instructions on the page to cast your votes.

It is very important to NOT press the Enter or Return key on your keyboard after you begin entering your votes! Doing so will submit your ballot before it is complete. (Unfortunately, this is a “feature” of the polling service the AHS uses and is beyond our control.) **Voting Deadline: April 15th!**

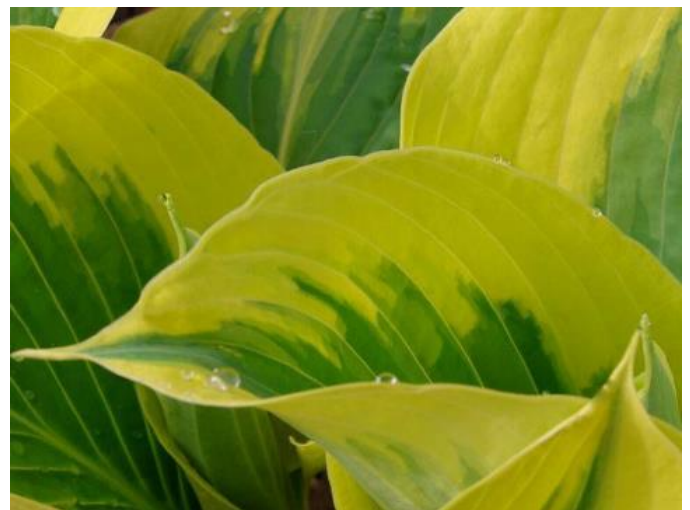
Anyone who has trouble voting is more than welcome to contact me for help!

Josh

[Contact Josh Spece](#)



H. ‘June’ - #2 in the 2011 AHS Popularity Poll
Photo courtesy of Mike Groothuis



H. ‘Liberty’ - #3 in the 2011 AHS Popularity Poll
Photo courtesy of Trudy Van Wyk



H. ‘Brother Stefan’ - #24 in the 2011 AHS Popularity Poll
Photo courtesy of Trudy Van Wyk



AHS Membership

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta*, and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about them. There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts - both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four E-Newsletters (emailed), *The Online Journal* (posted on the AHS website for AHS members only). All of these publications offer articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards and gardens, and news about the AHS.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is that you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries.

To learn more, go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ahsvoucherprogram.html>.

To join the AHS online, go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ZenCart/index.php>, or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.

Please join us today!

OTHER MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- * An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.
- * A Biennial AHS Membership Directory
- * The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- * An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS National and Regional hosta shows.
- * Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- * Access to the "Member's Only" section of the AHS website.



Spring Garden Photos

Courtesy of Bob Olson, St. Louis Park, MN

Baby Chick Photos

Courtesy of Trudy Van Wyk, Pella, IA

