

The *American*
HOSTA
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2013





Don Dean,
AHS President



President's Message

Two thousand thirteen marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the American Hosta Society. This year strikes me as a year of change for the AHS and for me as president. Change often inspires reflection upon the strong foundation of prior service produced by AHS members and leadership throughout these forty-five years...

Tom Michelletti, Kim Larsen, Kathy Shadrack, and Chuck Zdeb take a well-deserved repose following an aggregate thirty-eight years: fourteen, ten, eight, and six, respectively. No number of adjectives can adequately describe how generous their gift of service amidst their otherwise busy lives has been to our society. Join me in relaying a message of gratitude on behalf of our society. Their degree of experience and expertise will be missed.

This presidency is a change in roles for me. The Executive committee also experiences change. We have some top tier folks continuing with us, and some newcomers to the Executive Committee that I anticipate will bring new energy and ideas to the table. I welcome Cindy Deutekom, Judy Feltman, and Gregg Peterson. They are already off and running in their respective roles. The ingenuity of AHS individuals keeps me excited about our future!

Mary Ann Metz served as interim VP Member Services and has initiated some new opportunities and options to our members during the brief time she could offer her productive service! Look for future announcements as finishing touches are completed for each. Her contributions will reach fruition in the coming months.

“Two Cheeseheads” epitomized the “little engine that could”. Jack Barta and Tom Micheletti teamed up at a time that the AHS sorely needed some hope to continue conventions despite trepidations about a shorter, drive-yourself convention.

The overwhelming response of more than three hundred eighty attendees is one of enjoying the freedom within the schedule to visit gardens at their own pace and without a crowd. These two gentlemen have provided us with a new, flexible model that I anticipate will allow others an additional option for planning a convention as we move into the future.

Speaking of the future and conventions, fear not. The “traditional” convention model is not gone. The Cedar Rapids crew is energized and finalizing their plans to receive us next summer; it will follow the more familiar format of conventions. We shall return to North Carolina by the gracious offer of Bob and Nancy Solberg. They like Jack and Tom will organize a convention for us without the support of a local hosta society. Yes, many volunteers will be needed. Look for ways you may be able to assist and contribute. Can do!

What has not changed? Many leaders of the AHS have addressed the membership over the years. Volunteerism and its importance to the current and future health of any non-profit society are crucial. I have received and appreciate the many expressions of gratitude for accepting the position as your President and expressions of support moving into my first term.

Perhaps the most rewarding messages came from half a dozen individuals who made the effort to seek me out at the Milwaukee convention and simply stated, “Let me know where you may need help.”

In service,

Don Dean

[Contact Don Dean](#)





Cindy Tomashek,
Vice President, Conventions

Greetings Hosta Friends!

Did you "Escape to Wisconsin"? Nearly 400 of you did and already know what a superb event Jack Barta and Tom Micheletti put on! This first-of-its-kind convention featured drive-yourself/carpool garden tours, a shortened time frame and the lowest registration fee ever. Everyone had a great time - directions to the gardens were easy to follow and rides were provided for (and enjoyed by) everyone requesting one. Even skeptics reported delighting in the relaxed schedule and flexibility afforded to them while enjoying the fabulous gardens. More than a couple attendees said this convention was "truly like a vacation"!

As at every AHS convention, vending, speakers, the Hosta Show, and Hostality were all well attended. It takes many volunteers to pull off all the venues and AHS continues to thrive thanks to their hard work, so thank you again to each and every one who helped out in great or small ways!

Looking ahead, be sure to pencil in "Czech it Out", the 2014 AHS convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society. Dates are June 11-14, 2014 (which includes optional pre-convention tours). Judi Pohorsky gave us a tantalizing preview of the cultural activities available and gardens on tour...looks like loads of fun!

And now...drum roll please...the 2015 AHS National Convention will be hosted by our Hosta friends, Bob and Nancy Solberg, in Raleigh, North Carolina! For me - and I bet for you, too - this is really exciting news! The last convention in Raleigh was in 2001, and I hold many fond memories from that trip and expect to make some great new ones when 2015 rolls around.

Anyone interested in hosting a convention... your local society, you and a couple of friends, you and your spouse/partner, you and a neighbor, you and the Man in the Moon... :-) call, text, email or simply catch me on the street or in the hall and share your plans or ask questions.

Let's get the ball rolling for 2016!

Conventionally yours,

Cindy

[Contact Cindy Tomashek](#)



Randy Goodwin,
The Benedict Garden
Performance Chair

Benedict Garden Performance Judges:

Tabulation for the 2013 Benedict Garden Performance Medal winner will draw to a close October 15th. Many new contacts have expressed an interest in helping out the AHS by becoming garden performance judges. With these new judges and 'you', we will be assured of a more comprehensive sampling. This will only help validate the entire process.

To date, 10 have already sent in their choices for this year's ballot to be announced at the 2014 convention in Iowa. With rules stating a need for five ballots per cultivar from any two regions make the chances for advancement quite difficult. Please do your part. Evaluate the nominated cultivars and vote for the recommended number of cultivars per level and help make a difference.

Send your selections to:

G. Randall Goodwin
11542 Weeping Willow Drive
Zionsville, IN 46077





Rob Mortko,
Vice President Genus Hosta

Genus Hosta

This will be my final eNews report as your VP Genus Hosta. I have enjoyed working with you over the past four years as we made progress in better understanding HVX and are now tackling foliar nematodes. I have passed the research baton to Cindy Deutekom who is your newly elected VP Genus Hosta. Cindy and I have been working closely in this transition, and I plan to stay involved with the nematode research program as an ad hoc committee member under Cindy's overall leadership.

HVX Research Update

We are concluding our two year study at the University of Minnesota with Dr. Ben Lockhart. The final study report will be posted later this year. In the meantime, we have confirmed the transmission of HVX from virus-infected plant debris remaining in a planting site. The infection process is slow and it wasn't until the second year after planting a clean hosta in the same location that the virus was observed and confirmed with a positive test. Please DO NOT plant another hosta in the same location after removing an HVX infected hosta.

Nematode Research

In January 2013, we began our fund raising efforts for a proposed nematode research program on the assumption that our matching grant proposal would be successful. On February 14th, the OARDC at Ohio State notified us that we had in fact been awarded a matching grant. In the matching grant category, our nematode research proposal was ranked #2 by an esteemed Ohio State SEEDS research committee panel out of the 8 proposals received. OARDC set the value of the matching grant at \$48,800. Thus the AHS needs to raise a like amount. To date we have raised **85%** of this amount. Based on this impressive show of support from both individuals and local/regional clubs, we proceeded to draft a contract between the AHS and Ohio State. This contract was reviewed, approved and then signed on May 29th. Dr. Grewal at OSU has confirmed that the research effort has commenced.

The contract includes some flexibility to establish a final list of chemicals to be tested. A maximum

number of 25 chemicals may be tested with the final list to be established by July 1st. We also included some flexibility based on the results of the most promising pesticides from this list that will be included in the follow-on field testing.

We intend to actively manage this project and have formed an advisory committee to oversee the research. The committee has already conducted a final review of the research methodology. They 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. We have a total of 10 members with two members from each of the major AHS regions plus two ad hoc members. We have biologists, biochemists, chemical engineers, chemists, neuroscientists, and hort majors. One of our ad hoc members is a nematologist.

Advisory Committee Members

- Tony Avent** North Carolina
- Dave Barham** Ontario, Canada
- Lynn Bisschop** Ontario, Canada
- Steve Chamberlain** New York
- Patrick Coleman** Minnesota
- Mark Hanner** Michigan
- Don Rawson** Michigan
- Bob Solberg** North Carolina
- David Teager** Delaware
- Mark Zilis** Illinois

Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Members

- Professor Howard Davis**
Nematologist –
University of California, Davis
- Rob Mortko**
AHS immediate past VP Genus Hosta

It is not too late to make a donation to support this research. You can find more information about the research program on the AHS website:

[Foliar Nematode Research Program](#)

Thanks, Rob

[Contact Rob Mortko](#)





Claudia Walker,
Hosta Show Chair

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT STAGING A HOSTA SHOW?

There have been 13 accredited Hosta Shows this year, 2013. You might think that is great...and it is, but there a lot more societies that should be hosting shows that are not. There was one new show this year, the North Alabama Hosta Society hosted their first show! As a Judge, it was exciting to be there and to experience their excitement as well. Congratulations NAHS for a job well done and also a big thank you to Master Judge, Steve Cunningham, for helping the group through the process.

So, if your society is not a group staging a Hosta Show - why not? Let's see, we get all kinds of excuses: we don't have a space, we don't have enough people, we don't have the bottles, we can't write a schedule, our members don't want to participate, we don't have a Judge that will chair or be the co-chair for us, and on and on and on! But all of those excuses can be overcome and staging a show can happen!

The mission of the AHS is to educate the public, and the most effective means of doing this is by staging a Hosta Show. The public enjoys seeing the display of the hosta leaves, the new introductions, as well as, the favorites that have been around for years. The divisions with the container grown hostas, trough and containers arranged for effect and the use of hosta leaves in arrangements always bring questions and "oohs" and "ahhs". Hopefully, the Hosta Show will bring new members, too.

The AHS Judges Manual in Section II addresses all aspects of hosting a hosta show with samples of what to do each month, sample schedules, job descriptions, and suggested committee chairs! Basically everything is done for you --- you just have to change the particulars to fit your societies' situation.

However, if you want to stage a show that is a just a little different from the recommended schedule, you can go to Division VII of the show schedule in Section II of the Judges Manual and write your own mini-schedule with point scoring and stage your show your way as long as you get approval for an accredited show. A longstanding show that follows this pattern is First Look staged by Region 1 in the East. Another show that is using this method this year is the show for the New York State Fair Horticulture Display.

Yes, a show does take work, but a show builds friendships, builds a sense of community within your society, and publicizes the American Hosta Society. It also allows your members to exhibit their leaves in a competitive field, and let's be honest; we all like a little competitiveness now and then!

As the Hosta Show Chair, I am here to help you and your society stage a Hosta Show. I would be glad to talk to you about this, or answer your questions by email. How about giving a show a try in 2014? Show the public why this amazing plant, the Hosta is known as the "Friendship" plant! I look forward to hearing from you --- now is a good time to get started for 2014!

Claudia

[Contact Claudia Walker](#)





Andy Marlow,
Photo Editor,
The Hosta Journal

2013 AHS/Hosta Journal Photo Contest

Hostas should be hitting their peak across the parts of the country you can successfully grow them. So that means it's also peak time for taking hosta photos to enter in the 2013 AHS/*The Hosta Journal* Photo Contest. The deadline for entry is December 1, so you have some time, but the plants won't wait. Get going right now!

A few tips for takings good hosta photos:

1. Bright sun is a photo destroyer. Take photos on a cloudy day, or in early morning or evening light.
2. Rain or dew drops on the hosta generally detract from the plant itself. Take photos when the hosta is dry, and remove any debris from the plant before shooting.
3. Don't shoot hostas from above. Take your shot from an angle for the best results.
4. Remember to write down the cultivar name and in whose garden the plant is growing.

Finally, 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.

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.

Andy Marlow

10700 Minnetonka Blvd
Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

[Contact Andy Marlow](#)

2013 FALL HOSTA FORUM

The Edinboro Fringe

Every year for the past sixteen, two widely separated hosta clubs have gotten together to put on a symposium at the halfway point. The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania (more or less based in the Pittsburgh area) and the Western New York Hosta Society (Buffalo, NY-ish) have always had a great relationship and so organizing a symposium together came naturally.

Because we like to keep it educational, but FUN, we have always had a theme. Over the years we have had a Clint Eastwood theme (all the talks were based on his movies), a Dutch Treat theme (and we invited Marco Fransen from Holland and CH Falstad from Holland, Michigan) a Seven Samurai theme where we focused on Japanese hostas and plants and an Americana theme when Olga Petryszyn was our main speaker, some species-based talks were under the banner "Wild Thang". Last year the theme was "Off to See the Wizard" – you can read the details in last fall's *Online Journal*, but some say it was the best one EVER. The formula for the Forum is always two hosta speakers and two complementary non-hosta speakers.

This is our sixteenth year. For 15 years, we have held the Forum in a lovely old Inn, but we have outgrown the space and are moving down the road to Edinboro University. To commemorate the new venue, we are alluding to a famous Scottish Festival, called the Edinburgh Fringe. Our speakers are interpreting "fringe" to mean different things. Rachel Soucek, one of our headlining hosta speakers, will talk about being a young hybridizer and on the fringe of the tissue culture industry in "Hostas on the Edge". Tom Micheletti, our other featured hosta speaker will share "Hosta Landscaping Outside the Box". Our two non-hosta speakers will be Doug Oster, Pittsburgh's organic gardening personality, who will present a 12-month garden and Tony Post, Heritage Perennials, will urge us to try zone pushing (bananas anyone?).

The day consists of a continental breakfast, our four speakers, buffet lunch, vending and a live and silent auction. It's a full day – and it's a fun day.

Also, since so many people now come in Friday night and stay over, we have added a Friday night element along with a Dutch Treat dinner. This year we're going to have some fun with the theme...don't miss it.

This year's Forum is scheduled for September 21st. We'd love to have you! Please contact us for a brochure and registration packet. Your last chance at hosta-ing at the fringe of the season.

[Contact Kathy Shadrack](#)



2012 *The Hosta Journal*/AHS Photo Contest Category 5

Artistic Expression

Winner - Herb Burgess – "Fascinated" Butterfly.

Insect shots are frequent entries in this category, but few are as beautiful as this winner. Herb managed to capture the butterfly in exquisite detail while it was perched on the flower of *Hosta* 'Fascination'. While keeping the foreground in good focus, Herb blurred out the background by limiting the depth of field. The technical term for this blurred background is bokeh, achieved by using a long focal length lens and/or a large lens opening. Herb tells us that the hosta in the bokeh of this photo is 'T Rex'.



Čzech it Out!

Vitáme Vás

(We welcome you)

The 2014 AHS Convention is less than a year away. **Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited to be your hosts for this convention. We have been planning and working hard to make your visit to Iowa a positive experience, and the convention a memorial one.

The convention will feature optional bus tours on Wednesday and Thursday to showcase our local culture and cuisine

The Amana Colonies

The colonies are a world renowned tourist destination that offers old world German charm.

The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library

This Cedar Rapids Museum celebrates the culture and heritage of thousands of Czech and Slovak immigrants to Linn and Johnson counties.

Of course, the real reason for attending the convention is for the hostas and gardens.

The rich black soil of the heartland provides an excellent environment for beautiful gardens accented with the creative flavor of Middle America.

- **We have 10 exciting gardens for you to visit on Friday and Saturday**
- **More optional gardens on Sunday as you return home**

Harshbarger Hosta Society is excited and proud to be hosting the 2014 AHS convention. We will have the Collins Road Marriott Hotel to ourselves to enhance the experience.

Come to the convention to...

- ✓ **See our Hostas!**
- ✓ **Sample our Heritage**
(be sure to check out yours)
- ✓ **Experience our Warm**
Midwestern Hospitality



Visitors in the Novak Garden located near Coralville Lake north of the Iowa City area.

Photo courtesy of Jay McWherter

Come to Cedar Rapids
June 11-14, 2014
to Čzech it Out!





Bob Olson,
Editor, *The Hosta Journal*

The Hosta Journal

The new issue of *The Hosta Journal* is printing in August and will arrive in the hands of AHS members in September.

These photos accompany articles in the upcoming issue.



***Hosta* 'Kaiapoi' seen through irises featured in the article, "Hosta Salad", by Madelon Gilligan, Winchester, New Zealand. Photo by Madelon Gilligan**



At the Russian dacha of Eugene Sapunov and Anna Pokrovskaya, from the article, "Hostas in the Land of Dachas", by June Colley, Hampshire, United Kingdom. Photo by June Colley

Don't forget to vote in the 2013 AHS 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!

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

[Contact Bob Olson](#)





Josh Spece,
Web Editor-in-Chief



Sandie Markland,
Membership Secretary

2013 AHS Popularity Poll

It is time to cast your votes for the annual AHS Hosta Popularity Poll! Take a 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 ([American Hosta Society](#)) 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**”.

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 “**Online Voting**”. 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.)

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

Josh

[Contact Josh Spece](#)

Membership

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 to me 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.

AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net

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](#)



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.

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.

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!



Hostas from 2013 AHS Convention gardens in the Milwaukee area are featured in the collage on the front page and in the collage strips found throughout the newsletter. The front garden of Chuck and Gail Steele with *H. 'June'* and *'On Stage'* grabbing attention is at the left.

Photos by Reldon Ramsey



'Stargate' leaf detail in the garden of Owen and Sue Purvis, top left; a moss-covered stump in Dale Seivert's garden, top right; 'Praying Hands' and *H. montana* 'Aureomarginata' prominently displayed in Dave and Joy Collura's garden, bottom left; leaf detail of 'Lakeside San Kao' in the Steele garden, bottom right.



'Oh Cindy' in the garden of Gary and Jane Seymour, top left; an appealing grouping in the Seymour garden, top right; the Seymour's rain splashed 'Blue Arrow', bottom left; and the contrasting colors and textures of 'Spring Fling' and 'Venetian Blue' in the garden of Karen Hart and Jim Loeffler.