



Don Dean

AHS President

Presidents Message

Each season, mid-summer strikes me as a time to reflect on what has already occurred as well as on the things that lie ahead as the days begin to become noticeably shorter. The hot and humid days that seem to stretch on forever are balanced with the reality that we are now getting closer to snow and cold. This contrasts with memories of the blissful spring temps when the gardens were coming alive to share their wonders day by day and week after week.

Numerous local and regional events as well as the AHS National Convention in St. Louis have filled the spring and early summer. Additional engaging events are upon the horizon, into this fall and beyond. Plans are currently being finalized for events into 2017.

The AHS convention is an annual event that I simply *do not* want to miss because these events offer so much. The 2016 Convention fulfilled and surpassed my hopes. Gardens were inspiring. Speakers were informative. The organization was flawless. Attendees could not have asked for more welcoming hospitality.

The St. Louis Convention offered large gardens and small gardens with a variety of captivating design elements. Collections beyond

hosta included an extensive Japanese maple collection. Two gardens featured hosta, but also highlighted the results of the gardener's hybridizing of daylilies that cooperated by displaying their colors at peak bloom. Each garden welcomed attendees with a special flare. The only downside side to the convention was that it had to end. Friends that had gathered together parted ways until next year. Be sure to check out this year's *Online Journal* for detailed coverage. But ... there *IS* next year.

Conventions traditionally end with a preview of the next year's convention. The AHS has the good fortune of having a few local organizations that offer a return trip on each ten-year anniversary. The Indianapolis Hosta Society is one such group. Jamie Street from Indianapolis gave a preview of next year's convention. She presented a full schedule of not to be missed events that await the attendees. Mark your calendars for June 7 – 10, 2017. Look for much more detail coming in future months.

August marks a time when hybridizers must be prepared for fall by remembering to gather data about plants. Registrations require a clump and also leaf photo. A bloom photo is desired as well. Photo opportunities of flowers for mid-season and late season bloomers still exist. Our plants have a time limit for gathering data based upon the season. Registrations received by November 1st will be processed for inclusion in the print and electronic registration publications.

Why register a plant? Multiple biases exist for

me. First, as a retired educator, I value education. From reading the detailed registrations that included accurate parentage, I formed a foundation for my own hybridizing. This knowledge helped guide me in making my own crosses to create new plants. Second, registration also becomes a record of the name that is attached to the plant for historical purposes. It is taking a step toward avoiding plants with two names as well as a single name applied to more than one plant. Less confusion benefits many. Confusion can be rectified by thorough details found within the registration data such as leaf size, vein count, bloom details, etc. I encourage all those that are thinking of releasing a hosta from their garden to consider registration for the purpose of education, clarity, and for future reference when word of mouth information is no longer available, in other words to preserve the history.

Electronic resources and events for hosta involving the AHS also includes an Online Auction held annually in January. Any time now until frost is a great time to take inventory and consider possible donations for this auction. The AHS Online Auction is open to both members and non-members. Much more information about this event will be coming as winter approaches.

I should offer a note of clarification regarding a popular electronic resource, the American Hosta Society Facebook Group. This active group has an abundance of photos and ongoing postings, everything hosta, shade gardening interest, and more to include upcoming hosta events of interest to hosta fans. It was originally set up by an individual with a great idea that caught hold and took off. It is not directly managed by the AHS society, rather by administrators, both society members and non-members.

Members are reminded to check the home page for recent Members Only additions. One item of note is the recent posting of business

reports and meeting minutes. There is also a link for nominations being opened for a pending slate of officers. A chair and committee has been formed that has begun its work. Details of contacting and placing names into nomination are found upon the AHS website.

Much more is left of this gardening season. Wishing you many more gardening pleasures in the coming months.

In service,

Don Dean

AHS President





Rob Mortko

AHS VP Conventions

Convention News

A big thank you to all our hosta friends in St. Louis for a wonderful 2016 AHS Convention. And now we look forward to our 2017 AHS Convention.

Mark your calendar for “Hosta Hysteria” on June 7-10, 2017. The Indianapolis Hosta Society will be hosting the 2017 AHS National Convention. The convention will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. New for this year will be an online registration feature and an early bird registration bonus. Register by January 15th and receive a free convention t-shirt.

Enjoy great tour gardens (via tour buses), a hosta show, auction, vending, seminars, banquets, plenty of hostatality and much much more. Watch the Indy convention website for more details.

www.IndyHosta2017.com

Conventionally yours,

Rob Mortko

AHS VP Conventions





Joshua Spece

AHS Web Editor-in-Chief

2016 AHS Popularity Poll

It's 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 (www.hosta.org), click the "Members Only" tab along the top right 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 "Login".

You are now logged into the "Members Only" area of the website. You can access the Popularity Poll voting page by hovering over the "Publications" tab, then clicking "Popularity Poll Voting".

Once you are on the Popularity Poll voting page, scroll down to the bold heading that says "Online Voting" 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.)

You may also cast your votes by email. Simply send your votes to Bob Olson at thehostajournal@hotmail.com.

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

Josh Spece

AHS Web Editor-in-Chief

Slug Bait – Proper Application

By Rob Mortko

We live in a world of excess. “If a little is good, then more is better” has become the mindset of our culture. This attitude creeps into our gardening practices as well. As a result, fertilizers and pesticides are often over applied and/or misapplied because we simply fail to follow the labeled directions. The consequence is pollution to our environment and safety issues for our pets and wildlife as well as for us and our families.

While most everyone has tried various “home remedies” for slug control, most all of us have also sooner or later resorted to using commercial slug baits. But how often do we really read the labeled instructions before applying commercial slug baits?

The key to any pesticide is the active ingredient. That is what drives everything else stated on the label. Commercial slug baits contain one of two active ingredients: metaldehyde (up to about 4% by weight) or iron phosphate (about 1% by weight). There is actually now a third active ingredient being marketed as a slug bait and that is sulfur. Ortho recently changed the active ingredient on their “Bug-Geta” slug and snail killer from metaldehyde to sulfur, but kept the product name the same. Word of warning here – look at the active ingredient on the label, not the product name as chemical formulations do change.

The active ingredient in slug baits is documented to actually repel slugs. Therefore they rely on a bait as part of the inert ingredients to attract the slugs. This is typically a cereal/grain material or yeast. This is an important application point since slug bait does not form a barrier so much as it is simply an attractant.

Even best attempts to follow the label for proper slug bait application can be frustrating. Verbiage that states to “apply at X pounds per acre” do not mean much to any of us as typical backyard gardeners. We stop reading there before we even get to the part that says “Do not apply in piles”. This is most often the reason you hear about slug bait poisoning occurring with pets, wildlife or even humans.

It actually takes very, very, very little slug bait to do the job. (Please don’t miss the emphasis here.) Individual slug bait pellets should be spaced about 4 inches apart. That equates to only 9 pellets per square foot! Think about that. It is virtually impossible not to over apply if you shake the bait from its container. Even trying to broadcast by hand sprinkling will most likely be to excess. You almost have to apply one pellet at a time. And I would be remiss if I didn’t point you to the labeled precautionary statement that will tell you to wear chemical resistant gloves.

The other key to success is when to reapply. Again follow the label, but most manufactures will say to reapply every 2 or 3 weeks. We often think about slug control in the spring because that is when conditions are most favorable (i.e. cloudy, rainy conditions) and we see the most slug damage. But slugs lay eggs in the fall. You can get ahead of the curve with a late summer/early fall application before they start laying eggs.

In summary, effective and proper slug bait control comes down to this – read the label. Apply early and often, but ever so sparingly.



Sandie Markland

AHS Membership Secretary

AHS Membership numbers have been holding firm for the past year or so and we all look forward to the opportunity to welcome new friends to our ranks. As the excitement of spring begins to fade and the chores of summer take their toll, why not take a break from the garden and give some thought to who might enjoy a membership in the American Hosta Society --- ***The Hosta Journal*** is the perfect read on a hot summer's day! Remember: all new AHS members receive a copy of ***The Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide*** AND a \$15 plant voucher which can be used at a considerable number of participating mail order nurseries! What a great gift for those gardeners in your life! **

Our new electronic membership is a great option for the spouses of AHS Life Members who want to actively participate in the AHS, **but don't want the additional expense or duplicate publications of a standard membership!** Or for anyone who wants to simplify and cut back on stacks of paper! eMembership recipients receive the same welcome packet as regular members!

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 paper publication you receive from the AHS. The second ***Journal*** mailing of each year is always accompanied by a renewal form.

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 AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net 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.

AHS Memberships make great gifts for your gardening friends --- or great door prizes for your local club events! It's the perfect time of year to introduce your friends to the American Hosta Society and our beautiful Hosta Journal!

Enjoy those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!! May all your hosta dreams come true!!

Sandie Markland

AHS Membership Secretary

**All memberships received prior to September 1, 2016, will be effective for this calendar year (as of 01-01-16). Memberships received on or after that date will be applied to calendar year 2017, but will receive the same membership packet (minus the first issue of the 2016 print Journal).



Cindy Deutekom

VP Genus Hosta

It was a pleasure to finally meet Dr. Parwinder Grewal in St. Louis. Parwinder has agreed to write a summary of his talk on foliar nematodes from the National Convention for the next *The Hosta Journal!* Following publication, it will be posted in the Members Only section of the AHS website along with his slideshow.

I do have an update for those wishing to purchase NemaKill. ExcelAg, makers of NemaKill, are not in the business of selling to the general public and now have a distributor purchasers need to go through. This should make ordering straight forward. Contact by email or phone Kathy Lawrence, the Division Manager at The CISCO Companies in Indianapolis. Phone number is 1-800-888-2986 X310 and her email is kathylawrence@ciscoseeds.com.

Cisco is only stocking the 1-quart size of NemaKill, 1 which is a \$97.24 credit card purchase plus tax and freight. If a group would like to buy a case of 12 quarts, a 20% discount will be given.

ExcelAg does produce gallon containers of NemaKill - however, they have a 6 week turn around on orders and anything Cisco does not stock would only be available on full case quantities. (4 in a case price for \$387), plus tax and freight.

For those who have treated your hostas for nematodes using any product, those involved in the research project would like to evaluate how your treatment has worked for you so that we can offer further recommendations. Please refer to the previous eNews for information that would benefit our assessment. My email is cindydeutekom@gmail.com.

Cindy Deutekom

VP Genus Hosta



Cindy Tomashek

VP Member Services

AHS Society Plant UPDATE

Many of you have received your shipment of H. 'Sterling Medallion' and some are awaiting the fall shipment, which will fulfill most of the orders that were received. Due to high demand, we have decided to continue shipment in 2017 in order to meet as many orders as possible. Thus, the third group of Hosta 'Sterling Medallion' will be available in spring of 2017. **Orders for H. 'Sterling Medallion' are suspended until further notice.** An announcement will be made next April or May with information on how you can get your order in for this final group of plants if you missed out on the first shipments.

If you sent an order with payment for the fall shipment and haven't received a confirmation email, check your spam folder.

While it was our hope to introduce a new plant each year, we are learning that may not be the case. As with all agricultural crops, Hostas don't always respond as hoped when put into tissue culture. Patience will be required, but be assured the next AHS Society Plant is in the lab. It's too soon to know when we will have the inventory to release it, however, so stay tuned for release of more details.

FREE AUCTION SOFTWARE

Several societies have requested and received the Auction Software offered in the last E-newsletter as a courtesy of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and AHS. Step by step instructions written by Barb Schroeder and Floyd Rogers are included. The software has the ability to print labels for pots and print receipts, along with record keeping, and tracking payments. If you are interested in a copy, it will be provided "AS IS" - there are **NO support services** for learning or use of the program. To receive the FREE AUCTION SOFTWARE (via

email as a zip file) along with complete instructions, please contact Barbara Schroeder (barbschro1@gmail.com).

Mary Arnberg, Newsletter Editor Coordinator (mkarnberg@comcast.net), is the Newsletter Editor contact for reporting email changes/updates. Remember to copy all NLE's when an editor change takes place in your club.

Susan Hedrick, AHS Club Liaison Chair, ahsclubpresidents@yahoo.com, is the contact for local society Presidents. She will assist you with updates or corrections for the local societies Presidents data base. Also, please check your society's website link on the AHS web site periodically and provide new information in a timely manner or alert us to problems with the link.

Please contact me, prestonplants@aol.com, if you have suggestions for improving member services. AHS strives to bring you the most comprehensive and up-to-date information about Hostas and Hosta-related activities and we need your input to make sure we are accomplishing that goal.

Sow some excitement today and invite friends to join you at your next local or regional event, and be sure to have them check out AHS by visiting our web site, www.americanhostasociety.org or www.hosta.org. Having missed this year's fabulous convention in St. Louis, and missing the opportunity to connect with long-time friends, I'm already looking forward to 2017 in Indianapolis.

Cindy Tomashek

VP Member Services

Prestonplants@aol.com



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 hostas. 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 *eNewsletters* (emailed), and *The Online Journal* (posted on the web for members only). All of these include 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.

- ◆ 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 Members Only section of the AHS website

Other membership benefits:

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

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm> to join online or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.