



What do these *Hostas* have in common?



***Hosta* 'Liberty'**



***Hosta* 'June'**



***Hosta* 'Pandora's Box'**



***Hosta* 'Blue Mouse Ears'**

They have all been favorites in recent General and Mini Popularity polls. See Warren Pollock's article on the next page to learn how to participate in this year's popularity poll.

2017 AHS POPULARITY POLLS

by Warren I. Pollock

If you haven't voted yet in the 2017 Popularity Polls, this is a reminder to vote. Due date for submission of ballots is **Tuesday, September 5th.**

The American Hosta Society has two Popularity Polls annually conducted and published in *The Hosta Journal*:

- o General Hosta Popularity Poll and
- o Mini (Miniature) Hosta Popularity Poll.

An article on these popular polls is in the Spring 2017 (Volume 48, Number 1) issue of *The Hosta Journal*, page 67.

The General Pop Poll includes all hosta species and cultivars. There are no clump size restrictions.

For the Mini Pop Poll, definition of a miniature hosta is: leaf blade area (length x width) less than about 6 sq. in. (39 sq. cm). This would be a mature clump *no larger than a fairly large H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'*.

The latter criterion is very helpful because few of us actually measure hosta leaves. *H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'* is designated as the "Mini Hosta Garden Standard." Just compare your mini candidates to the size of a well-grown 'Blue Mouse Ears' clump. If they are *not* larger, considered them candidates for the AHS Mini Pop Poll.

(I need to mention that *H. 'Curly Fries'* is NOT a mini hosta, so please don't include it in your mini list. But you can vote for it in the AHS General Popularity Poll.)

Hosta cultivars in both AHS Pop Polls need to be registered. You can check whether your candidates are registered by consulting the AHS Registry, <http://www.hostaregistrar.org>; use the Search tab. If that's too difficult or time consuming, then just list your candidates and the unregistered ones will be sorted out in the final tally.

VOTING IS EASY, VERY EASY. Just list your 10 favorite hostas (more is O.K.) and your 10 favorite mini hostas (again more is O.K.), preferably in decreasing popularity order, and email the lists (ballots) to Bob Olson, *The Hosta Journal* editor, at

rolson25@gmail.com.

It's that simple! As mentioned, due date for ballot submissions is September 5th -- immediately after the American Labor Day holiday weekend. Don't put off voting as you might forget to vote later. **VOTE NOW.** Results of the 2017 Pop Polls are intended to be in the Fall 2017 issue of *The Hosta Journal*.



Gregg Peterson

AHS President

President's Message

The television news anchor reported the other day that the Minnesota State Fair was less than a month away. The annual "Minnesota Get Together", for many people, marks the last hurrah of the summer season before the start of school and the end of weekends at the lake and summer vacations. For hosta gardeners, it signifies the start of the march to the fall and winter and the eventual end of the 2017 gardening season.

Our season this year started off in the spring with a warmer than usual April and plentiful moisture to nourish the numerous hosta "pips" as they emerged from the ground and grew into large clumps in the garden beds. We even avoided the customary late freeze in May this year, although sheets and baskets to cover the tender foliage were at the ready!! There is nothing more satisfying than watching a hosta garden bed emerge in the spring as small shoots breaking through the soil and within a matter of weeks ending up as mature hosta plants. However, our early spring and summer gardening successes hit a dose of reality in mid-June. As we were traveling home on Sunday from Indianapolis, site of the 2017 AHS National Convention, we learned that a thunderstorm was dropping pea-sized hail on our gardens. Luckily, we had exhibited large to very large leaves at the Hosta Show, as our hosta leaves were torn and full of holes upon our return home.

Speaking of the 2017 AHS National Convention in Indianapolis, a big thank you to the Indianapolis Hosta Society, its convention planning committee and the countless number of volunteers for a memorable and well-executed convention. It is a tremendous undertaking to put together and hold a convention of this size and I want to congratulate the group for a great convention experience.

The excitement of a national convention is evident the minute you enter the doors of the hotel. Greetings are exchanged with friends from across the country as you catch up on the latest hosta news and gardening experiences. The first step inside the vending area is overwhelming as there are still hostas, companion plants and garden art and accessories that you don't have. Prepping and staging leaves or containers for the Hosta Show is a chance to showcase some of your hosta growing prowess and seeing a full room of staged leaves, containers and artistic designs is a tribute to all hosta gardeners. The educational and banquet speakers provide an opportunity to expand our knowledge of hostas and gardening, as well as taking a light-hearted look at our hosta obsession. The convention auction offers a chance to see and perhaps own some of the new and unique hostas that are out there, as well as contributing to help the society continue its mission.

However, the highlight of every convention is the gardens. The gardens this year were great and represented the Indianapolis area as an exceptional hosta growing region. The garden hosts were very gracious in welcoming everyone to their gardens and very helpful in answering questions and pointing out the special features of their gardens to convention attendees. I remarked to a garden visitor next to me as we both admired a particularly impressive clump of a certain hosta cultivar in one of the gardens that I thought I had a good specimen in my garden, but will have to go home and "practice" more after seeing their clump!! All in all, a fitting tribute to all the members and hosta growers of the Indianapolis area.

In 2018, the American Hosta Society will reach a special milestone, namely the celebration of 50 years as a national plant society. Our 2018 AHS National Convention will highlight and help trace our history as a hosta society, from our humble beginnings with a few dedicated members to the premier hosta organization in the country. Our convention hosts will be the Delaware Valley Hosta Society and the convention will be held June 20-23, 2018 in the Philadelphia area. Dave Teager gave an overview of what “Phifty in Philly” is planning for convention attendees next year and it promises to be a celebration of everything hosta and more. Start your planning now to attend this memorable convention next year and join fellow AHS members as we celebrate the rich heritage of the national organization dedicated to the “friendship” plant. More details will be forthcoming as convention details, schedules and registration information are finalized.

Finally, I want to share with you an interaction that I had with a couple of first-time AHS convention attendees in one of the tour gardens. While talking to them, I learned this was the first hosta activity they had ever attended, much more interesting that it was a national convention. Curious as to what motivated them to pick a national convention as their first hosta event, I was even more surprised by their answer to my inquiry. They simply stated that they were invited by a member of the Indianapolis Hosta Society. No slick advertisement or brochure, no social media campaign nor any promotional giveaway; just a simple face to face invitation to come and join us at this gathering of hosta folks. It would probably do us all good to remember that while we live in a world of social media attention and hyped up advertising, the simple personal invitation is still the best sales tool we have. I would encourage all of us to remember that as we plan local, regional and even national hosta events. Take the time to simply extend a sincere invitation to someone to join you at an upcoming event.

Enjoy the remaining months of this gardening season.

Yours in the “friendship” plant,

Gregg Peterson
AHS President



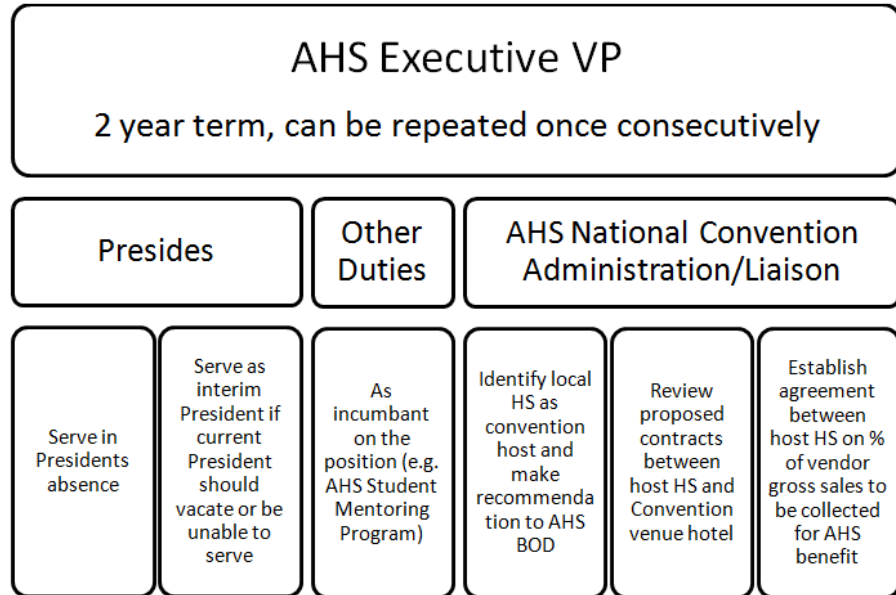
Hosta 'Brother Stefan', 2017 Hosta of the Year

Photo courtesy of Olga Petryszyn



Hosta Greetings from your new AHS Executive VP!

So, what the heck does the AHS Executive VP do? The basic role defined in the 2015 AHS Bylaws is summarized in the following figure.



As with all leadership roles within AHS I am one of many volunteers. The last two AHS Ex VPs were Rob Mortko and Cindy Tomashek, who both excelled in this role leaving me with some big shoes to fill. As AHS National Convention venues are locked in thru 2020, I look forward to partnering with each convention team’s leadership in continuance of GREAT CONVENTION gatherings. This includes our society’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2018 “Phifty in Philly” to be held in the Philadelphia, PA area and hosted by the Delaware Valley Hosta Society, June 20-23, 2018. Check out the convention website for more information at <https://www.ahs2018philly.org/>.

By AHS Bylaws each convention includes a general business meeting (typically combined with one of the banquet events), an accredited Hosta show, garden tours and an auction which is the major AHS fundraiser for the year. But as anyone knows who has attended a national convention there is often much more going on. The convention not only creates an opportunity to visit another part of the USA and to buy unique Hosta, it is also a great opportunity to visit with friends, old and new, who share a common interest in Hosta. So, whether you do any of the following:

- sit together at a banquet table
- ride together on the garden tour bus
- clean Hosta leaves together for the Hosta Show
- walk a garden together
- share a beverage in Hostality
- share notes after a lecture

getting together with friends is always FUN, FUN, FUN! Don’t forget visiting with friends, continued learning and walking in gardens or the convention hallways all have an added health benefit to the mind, body & spirit. So, start planning now to attend the 2018 AHS National Convention! The AHS Board of Directors looks forward to seeing everyone and celebrating our 50th Anniversary!

See you in Philly!

Amy Peterson
AHS, Executive VP



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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 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 or 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

Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary

**All memberships received prior to September 1, 2017, will be effective for this calendar year (as of 01-01-17). Memberships received on or after that date will be applied to calendar year 2018, but will receive the same membership packet (minus the first issue of the 2017 print Journal).

New American Hosta Society Board Members installed at the national convention in Indianapolis

Editor's note: At the Indianapolis Convention in June 2017, several new members were elected to Executive Board Positions. In this issue of the AHS eNewsletter, we introduce the new Vice President, Genus Hosta, Jim Henry, Vice President Awards and Honors, Paula Lehtola, and Sandy Klausman, Vice President, Member Services.



Jim Henry – VP Genus Hosta

Jim Henry first joined the AHS in 2001, after being introduced to *Hostas* through weeding services for Alex Summers. He lives and gardens in Lewes, Delaware, where he also serves as website manager for the Delmarva Hosta Society. A retired Professor of English, he has published in *The Online Journal*, and he recently released *Hosta Seizure*, a full-length paperback magical realist gardening mystery novel in which hostas are characters. (Details are provided at www.hostaseizure.com.) His goal for tenure on the Board as Vice President, Genus Hosta, is to collaborate with Genus Hosta experts to maintain the standards currently in place for representing the genus and to support the AHS in stoking more public awareness of hostas.

Paula Lehtola-VP Awards and Honors (written by Carol Brashear, Region One Director)

Paula's gardening background includes residing on a piece of her family's farm! She moved into her home on 2 acres of her family farm in rural Massachusetts in the fall of 1989. Beginning with a large vegetable garden that supplied her restaurant, Backroads, she eventually branched out into hostas and many sun-loving perennials. In 2000, she and friend Mary Arnberg joined the New England Hosta Society followed in 2001 by joining AHS. This was and remains a life-altering experience for Paula.

She spearheaded the first and only AHS Convention in New England in 2011 which still garners rave reviews.

Paula is a consummate volunteer, always willing to lend a hand and offer innovative ideas and enthusiasm to a project. She is a builder by nature (and profession) and with her co-president at NEHS, breathed new life into a failing local society that flourishes to this day.

She has held numerous positions in one of her favorite causes, LIONS CLUB and has been the recipient of their highest award, the Melvin Jones Fellowship. In 2010 Paula accepted her first position on the AHS Board of Directors as Chair-Past Publications. For the last four years she has managed 'Hosta Adventure' sales and was just elected to the position of Vice President Awards and Honors, June 2017. All who have worked with her know she will be a great asset to the organization in this new board position.

Paula already has some ideas she hopes to present at the fall board meeting.

Sandy Klausman - VP Member Services

In 1992 Sandy and her husband moved from town to 1 ½ wooded acres next to a deer infested forest preserve in Illinois. The first garden beds were started before they moved into the house. Soon all the sunny areas were filled and Sandy discovered hosta. She was hooked. In 1996, she joined Northern Illinois Hosta Society, learning much about our favorite plant at Winter Scientific Meetings. Brian Skaggs approached her about joining a small group of enthusiasts preparing to form a club in NW Indiana. That club became Hosta and Friends now known as Northwest Indiana Hosta Society.

Volunteerism is second nature to Sandy, having held elected office in many of the organizations she has joined, including the Crete Woman's Club, Exotic Plant and Garden Club, Northwest Indiana Hosta Society, and Quilters Plus. Continued learning about horticulture is a passion which may account for one of the reasons she has been a Master Gardener with the University of Illinois for 27 years. Their motto is teaching others to grow. She also has had her own horticultural design and consulting business working with homeowners that wanted to do their own gardens.

Sandy has started fielding the varied inquiries from the AHS web site and is looking forward to working with the committee chairs under the umbrella of member services.

The American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) announces plans to introduce a free *Hosta Locator*.

The American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) has decided to introduce a replacement for the popular *Hosta Finder* that had been published for many years by Steve Greene. Because the *Hosta Finder* is no longer being published, AHGA is teaming with AHS to provide a source listing of hostas and pricing information for hostas that are offered by its members. The *Hosta Locator* will be linked to the AHS Hosta Registry website (hostaregistrar.org). This arrangement will provide a one source stop for all hosta information, including Registration data, Show Classification, Hosta registration photos and additional photos, along with the *Hosta Locator*. The *Hosta Locator* is being paid for by the AHGA membership, and will be provided free of charge to all. The new *Hosta Locator* should launch by Spring, 2018.

*Make plans now to attend the 50th Anniversary
AHS Convention in Philadelphia*

1968-2018



The 2018 Convention will be held at the
Doubletree by Hilton, Valley Forge Hotel on **June 20-23, 2018.**

Make your plans now to attend this celebration of the **50th Anniversary** of the **American Hosta Society**. More information will be coming soon. Save the date!

www.ahs2018philly.org

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 Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These Journals include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, 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

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. For information about this program, 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.