

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014















Don Dean AHS President

Presidents Message

Winter of 2013-14 is proving to be particularly challenging for many of our members,

but with days getting longer and the calendar progressing daily, spring's hopes and dreams are flourishing. The AHS hopes to help make these dreams even better.

Our Online Auction, held in January, heated things up with great results. Be sure to check out the AHS website page for a summary and this year's hottest items at

http://americanhostasociety.org/Auctions.html

More detail is seen in other communications to include an anticipated article within an issue of our journal.

Our registrar has been busily completing work to fulfill our desire for information about registered hostas. All 2011 registrations have been updated, the 2012 registrations ready to post and may be by the time of this publication being sent, and the 2013 registrations will follow once the hard copy has been published and sent with *The Hosta Journal*, Volume 45:1. The much-anticipated online registration software has been trialed and final adjustments are underway; it is easy to use and provides more complete data for registrations through reminders to registrants of any required data. This reference tool may be accessed at http://hostaregistrar.org/.

Electronic membership has been offered for the first time in 2014. All members will now be able to access all items within the members only portion of the AHS website as in the past. The most recent two issues of *The Hosta Journal* are now also available within the members' section as a result of electronic membership.

The change in seasons brings with it some changes in personnel. We welcome Cheryl Lockhart, Mississippi, into the role of Advertising Chair. Advertising has been consolidated into a single position. Marlys Anderson served us well, performing this role for both print and electronic

advertising. We thank Marlys for her service and wish her the best while she attends to other needs into the future. Elaine Cole, Minnesota, rejoins us with proven expertise to perform the role of Audit and Finance Chair. Tom Michelletti continues in his decades of service to the AHS in the newly formed chair of the society plant selection committee. Anticipate much more information regarding this new program at this summer's convention.

Convention! Our annual convention is one of the most anticipated events each year. Consider joining those of us who attend annually as we go to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, returning for the first time since 1993. This year's event includes all of the traditional events and offers its own special flare as well. The Harshbarger Hosta Society is steadily working upon finishing touches. Be sure to go frequently to the website that is set up to provide the most current information at

http://harshbargerhostasociety.weebly.com/. There are no better opportunities to meet and greet fellow hosta enthusiasts, learn more about hosta, and see great gardens than conventions. Consider joining us in Iowa!

The Cedar Rapids 2014 Convention and every one beyond will need more members to step into a volunteer role. The more we do as a society, the more people it requires to do these things. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey presented here by our Volunteer Coordinator, Mike Greanya. This document will assist us in finding the right person for the right role. We are not looking for a large commitment of time from a few, but many who can commit a small block of time during conventions. This list will also assist in other searches to match people with required skills to the appropriate role in other areas for the benefit of the whole society.

In service.

Don Dean
AHS President

Online Auction 2014

This year's Online Auction concluded on January 25th and did not disappoint! Online Auction results and a summary of the top bid plants are posted upon the AHS website each year. Be sure to check it out for an idea of what you have been missing if you have never participated. Those that have participated in the past auctions may wish to relive the excitement. Go to

http://americanhostasociety.org/Auctions.html.

A two hour bidding battle on *Hosta* 'Sharon Stone' ended the auction, contributing to the total of nearly \$10,700 raised. These funds will be used to provide the many benefits the membership enjoys, primarily supporting the two print versions of our *The Hosta Journal*. Look for future information about this plant within the auction results on the AHS website and an anticipated article within an issue of our journal.

A huge thanks goes out to Bob Axmear for his continued support and technical advice, Josh Spece for reconstructing the "look" of the software used and consistent management of software needs as the auction proceeded to its conclusion, Jojo for her flare with words in item descriptions, the many donors that outdid themselves again, and of course, the bidders that approached this auction as the fundraiser that it is!

The auction is conducted from beginning to end electronically. An email glitch occurred with my service provider during the time of sending "payment received" notifications. All those emails that were affected have been resent. Please contact me if you believe you should have received one of these notices but have not. News is distributed via email notices throughout the year. Send a message to me at dedean@q.com, requesting that your address be added to the mailing group. This will help ensure that you do not miss this event in future years. Changed your service provider or have a new email address? Be sure to send this news to me as well.

Don Dean

On-line Auction Chair

American Hosta Society Executive Board

President Don Dean

Executive Vice President Cindy Tomashek

Immediate Past President Doug Beilstein

Vice President Judging/Exhibitions Gregg Peterson

Vice President Genus *Hosta*Cindy Deutekom

Vice President Member Services Rob Mortko

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Vice President Awards and Honors Michael Shadrack

Editor - The Hosta Journal Robert C. Olson

Editor - The Online Hosta Journal Reldon Ramsey

Web Editor-in-Chief Joshua Spece

Treasurer **Judy Feltman**

Membership Secretary Sandie Markland

Recording Secretary Marcia Sully

Click on the name to send the person an e-mail.



Cindy Tomashek VP Conventions

The excitement is growing... another great AHS

Convention is coming your way ... make your plans now to be in Cedar Rapids this

summer!

The next Hosta Journal contains the registration form and a flyer for "Czech It Out", with details about the 2014 AHS Convention hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Put the dates into your calendar (June 11-14, 2014) now and be sure to ask for time off from work, ask your neighbor to take care of the cat or arrange to have them walk the dog so you can be part of the fun! By now, the form is also available on the convention web site, so go "Czech It Out"!

We're also very excited to be returning to the Raleigh, North Carolina, area for the 2015 AHS Convention...I can't wait to see what Bob and Nancy Solberg have planned. What about 2016?? It is time for someone or some society to step up and get the ball rolling...might that be you?? With the AHS behind you, it can be a local society, you and a couple of friends, you and your spouse/partner, you and a neighbor...you get the idea! Please call, text, or email me to share your plans or ask questions...there's plenty of time to craft a great AHS Convention for 2016, so let's get started!

As always, this is a good place to check for updates and announcements about developments on the convention horizon...if you don't see anything happening, it's time to stir up some action! I am at your disposal to answer questions or provide information and I'm waiting to hear from you!

Conventionally yours,

Cindy Tomashek
VP Conventions



Cindy Deutekom VP Genus Hosta Report

With the completion of the HVX Project, the updated HVX brochure has been published on the website! It can be downloaded or printed. Click here to link

to the HVX brochure.

New AHS Nematode Research Program

The Foliar Nematode Project is underway. Dr. Grewal's team will be visiting several hosta gardens in February to collect crown, bud and soil samples to look for over wintering nematodes and eggs.

Check out the article in the next edition of *The Hosta Journal*: 'AHS Nematode Research Program – Progress Update'.

We have raised a total of \$45,300 (90.6%). With \$4,700 to complete our portion of the project fundraising, you still have the opportunity to contribute! Individuals, local and regional hosta societies, please consider a donation to help us reach our goal. Your donations are appreciated.

For more information on the new nematode study, here is the link:

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Nematodes.html.

Cindy Deutekom VP Genus Hosta



Mike Shadrack VP Awards

The AHS Newsletter Exchange

About this time of year I send a letter to each of the

Hosta Society Newsletter editors that are members of the AHS newsletter exchange. The letter seeks nominations for the AHS Certificates of Appreciation also know as the President's Wall. The list of newsletter editors maintained by the Newsletter Exchange is used for this mailing as it is the most up to date contact list that we have.

But, not all local Hosta Societies are signed up to the Newsletter Exchange so those societies do not get my letter. Some clubs do not communicate via a newsletter and others simply do not wish to be part of the scheme. If your Society is not already part of the scheme, now might be a good time to consider joining.

Mary Arnberg, the new Newsletter Exchange Coordinator, writes:

"Greetings from New England. Although my gardening knowledge and hands-on effort for the New England Hosta Society, my local garden club and the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association far surpass my computer expertise, I have agreed to take the post of NLE Coordinator for the AHS. "Buckle up", as Bette Davis said.

Bravo to all of you who are Newsletter Editors. Keeping newsletters timely, informative and interesting is quite a task. As editor for several years for NEHS, I found that the Newsletter Exchange, which is offered to NLE members, was a great resource for well-researched and informative articles by hosta lovers around the country.

Remember that it is available for you to use when imagination fails, or when you are looking at nothing but a schedule (it does happen) to print. Articles in any of the other newsletters that are included in the Exchange may be re-printed in your own. The only request is that you give credit to the actual author of the article in your newsletter.

Please contact me for website and passwords to log into the exchange.

Have a wonderful 2014, and the best newsletters ever."

Mary Arnberg (mkarnberg@comcast.net)

If your Society has not received my letter seeking nominations for the AHS Certificate of Appreciation and you would like to make a nomination please contact Mary or me before April 1st.

Mike Shadrack
VP Awards

AHS Hosta Virus X Research Update

The key fact to remember is that the virus remains infective in soil where an infected Virus X plant has been removed.

We still do not understand the mechanism, but this finding was reconfirmed during the second phase of the research.

To view/print a copy of the final HVX research report, go to the AHS Website disease section for report in a tri-fold report format.



Gregg Peterson VP of Judging and Exhibitions

As we all await the end of winter and look forward to spring, there is one activity currently underway that many AHS members may not

be aware of. Each year, right after the first of the year, the AHS Classification List is updated with the hosta cultivars registered during the last year with the Registrar. Kim Larsen, the current Show Classification Chair will receive the new additions to the list and will then update the listing to include all of the new registrations through 2013. The 2014 Classification List will be available to be viewed and/or downloaded by April 1 on the AHS website.

While primarily used by judges and exhibitors in AHS accredited leaf shows, the Show Classification List and supporting information is available to anyone. To find the Classification List, go to the Show Judging link on the AHS website. The 2013 Classification List is currently available for viewing in both a "full" listing or in a "simplified" listing used primarily for classifying leaves into the proper category in a leaf show. An example of the information available in the Full Classification List is shown in the following example:

Even though the information is most important to exhibitors and judges, it can be used by other gardeners to help gauge whether the leaves on a particular variety represent a mature or immature leaf based on the registered leaf size dimensions. Likewise, the leaf color center and leaf color margin descriptions can help provide a positive identification of a plant in your garden.

So as we await that wonderful time in the spring when our garden beds come to life, take a few minutes during the latter part of the winter to explore some of the resources available to you in the Show Judging section of the website. You might pick up a bit of new information about the plants in your garden and who knows, we might even see you exhibiting at a leaf show this summer!

Gregg Peterson
VP of Judging and Exhibitions

Variety	Sectio n-	Leaf Lengt	Leaf Wid	Leaf Color Center	Leaf Color Margin		Reg. or Species
	Class	h	th				
Abba Dabba Do	II-5b	12	6.00	Medium green	Golden yellow	1998	R.



Sandie Markland AHS Membership Secretary

You might have noticed that we have some new options for renewals this year. You can now renew for up to five years at a time --- saving

you money and putting off a little work for longer periods of time! We have also added an electronic option --- clear off your desk (or kitchen table) and save some trees (more shade for hostas!) and money by viewing all issues of *The Hosta Journal* online. You will be notified via email when each issue is ready for viewing at www.hosta.org

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!

Happy New Year!! May all your hosta dreams come true!!

Sandie Markland
AHS Membership Secretary



Rob Mortko VP Member Services

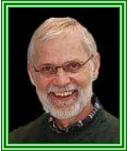
I am pleased to announce a new addition to our growing list of AHS National Display Gardens. The Illinois Prairie Hosta

Society recently submitted an application for their hosta garden at the University of Illinois Arboretum in Urbana, Illinois. Their hosta garden met all of the AHS criteria for a National Display Garden and their application was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. You can find more info on the display garden program on the AHS website (see link below). Also look for an article in an upcoming issue of *The Hosta Journal*.

 $\underline{\text{http://www.americanhostasociety.org/DisplayG}} \\ \text{ardens.html}$

For those of you who are not yet AHS members, there is a new membership option - electronic membership. For a reduced price of only \$20 annually you can now receive all the same AHS publications electronically via email direct to your computer. It is a great way to give AHS membership a trial at a greatly reduced price.

Rob Mortko
VP Member Services



Bob Olson Editor, The Hosta Journal

The Popularity Poll and the Benedict Award

The most often requested item from *The Hosta Journal* is the Popularity Poll. It is requested by local gardening groups, other magazines and by commercial growers in addition to individual members. For years it has been "THE GUIDE" to the best hostas available in America. It is reliable because we have wide participation in the polling process. But we are always trying to improve upon this and therefore continually make efforts to make casting a ballot easy.

This year we are asking for only your top ten favorites instead of top 25 as was done in the past. The reason for this is that too many people found the idea of selecting 25 daunting and put off voting until another time—or not at all. We also found there were very few votes separating the last 8-10 on the list and it was questionable how reliable the tail end was. Easier voting should make the process easier and more representative of our members' preferences.

Likewise we are only asking for your five favorite miniatures.

A ballot can be downloaded from this newsletter. Fill it out and send it to me, or just e-mail me your favorites. It will take you ten minutes and help us a lot. Send it to thehostajournal@hotmail.com.

Likewise the Benedict Award needs voters. It is easy to become a Benedict Award judge/voter. You must be a member of the AHS for three years and have visited a number of gardens so as to have seen a wide variety of cultivars and can say which are the best hostas in your area. Many (perhaps most) of you fit this description. Send an e-mail to Randy

Goodwin <u>randy.goodwin@sbcglobal.net</u> and he will help you become a garden judge and able to vote for next year's candidates.

Do it today. Why not? The weather is lousy now, but soon it will be spring and you will be busy once more.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Bob Olson



Josh Spece Web Editor-in-Chief

The AHS has no intention of being left behind and forgotten in the digital world we live in! In an effort to keep pace with the world around us, the American

Hosta Society is excited to now offer our incredible Hosta Journals online!

AHS members can log into the Members area of the website and then look for Archives under *The Hosta Journal* heading in the left menu. Members will be able to read the two most recent Journals in ebook format. When a new Journal is published, the oldest digital Journal will rotate off.

We hope you will find the digital Journals convenient and as enjoyable as the printed versions! And don't forget, every issue of the Online Hosta Journal is also available in the Members area on the website.

Josh Spece

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The American Hosta Society needs your help. For far too long the voluntary functions that keep the AHS on track have been provided by a handful of dedicated individuals who tirelessly work to bring you quality conventions, publications and events throughout each and every year. Our organization, like most, is supported and operates primarily through the volunteer assistance it receives from its members. Without your help the AHS will not be able to continue to do the things it does each and every year.

At the 2013 Convention in Milwaukee, a sincere request was made by the incoming president, Don Dean, calling for more members to become involved in the process to assure successful conventions in the future. Aside from conventions, there are many other tasks that the AHS Board and committee chairs are responsible for annually. These tasks are sometimes difficult for one individual to accomplish when tight deadlines are imposed. There are many times when the Board wishes it had help, but doesn't know who to ask. Until now, there has never been a mechanism in place to pair committee chairs and organizers of events with people who might be willing to help but never knew how to go about volunteering.

To assist in the problem of pairing organizers with volunteers, the AHS is in the infancy stage of developing a database of members' skill sets so that those who want to volunteer can be contacted by the AHS when assistance is needed. By completing and returning the accompanying survey, you are helping us to get one step closer to a workable system of tapping our volunteers. This does not necessarily mean that you will be called upon immediately but know that your willingness to help is the most important thing right now! This new database is intended to identify a member's willingness to serve and the information on their particular talents so that they can be paired with the right job when the time comes.

Lists of some of the areas where volunteers may be needed are as follows. Please come back to these categories when completing the survey below to fill in some of the blanks toward the end of the survey.

- Administrative- clerical, customer service, education, grant writing, information technology, law, logistics, parliamentary procedure, scientific research.
- Financial- bookkeeping, accounting, fund raising.
- Publicity & Advertising- publicity, publishing, public speaking, printing, photography, web design, writing, editing, communications, event planning.
- Leaf Show-help setting up at conventions, staffing and assisting registration tables, running leaves to show, securing judges and organizing judges breakfast and assignments.
- Merchandizing- maintaining and transporting inventory to events
- Auction-soliciting donations, data base of plants, organizers at conventions
- Awards & Honors- organize, increase, and maintain the list of awards that are 'sponsored' by the AHS, Societies and individuals
- Garden Selection- public display gardens, applications, approval process, order plaque once approved by the board, verify continuation on a schedule, contact AHS members to encourage more involvement, maintain list to ensure website posting is accurate, send amended lists to VP to be communicated to Web Editor, garden landscape design, horticulture

Fill out the **Volunteer Assistance Survey** on the next page and return to:

Michael Greanya AHS Volunteer Coordinator 2204 Vandemere Dr. Jackson, MI 49201

SURVEY REQUESTING VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY AND THE AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION

	ILS	NO
Are you currently a member of the American Hosta Society (AHS)?		
If yes above, how long have you been a member of the AHS?		
Are you a member of a local or regional hosta society?		
If yes above, which society(ies) do you belong to?		
Do you belong to any other garden groups or garden related societies? If yes, please name a few.		
Have you ever volunteered or been appointed to one or more group or society positions?		
If yes above, what capacity and for how long did you serve?		
If asked by the President of the AHS or one of his Committee Chairs to serve on a committee as a volunteer, would you consider accepting the invitation to serve if you felt you would have the ability and time to serve in some sort of capacity?		
What is your highest level of education? High School, Associates degree, Undergrad college, Post Graduate What is your area or specialty or expertise, even if not related to education?	ge, l	Masters
The types of skills I possess that might be of most assistance to the AHS are (please identify from provided in the "Call For Help" letter preceding this survey i.e. Administrative, Financial, Leaf Vending etc.).		ist
Name:		
Address:		

Preferred type of contact (i.e. email, phone, mail-please provide):

VEC NO

AHS Convention 2014 Cedar Rapids, Iowa June 11-14, 2014



The 2014 AHS Convention is less than a year away. The Harshbarger Hosta Society will be you host for the event and promise to make the convention a memorable one.

The reason we chose the theme 'Czech it Out!' for this convention is the high percentage of Czech ancestry here in Cedar Rapids and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library that is located in our city. At the beginning of the 20th century, roughly 25% of the Cedar Rapids population was of Czech heritage.

Cedar Rapids is the home of Quaker Oats - the largest cereal mill in the world. Most of you are familiar with the painting "American Gothic"...Grant Wood lived here and painted his famous work of art at Turner Alley. If you are driving east or west to Cedar Rapids, you may be traveling on the historic 'Lincoln Highway', which goes through Brucemore is one of our beautiful Queen Anne homes and it is open for tours of the home and its garden.

We will gather at the Marriott Hotel on Collins Road for a few days of hostas, friends, food and talk! There will be 9 gardens on our tour, plus Noelridge Gardens...just across the street from the hotel. We are offering one bus for those of you that enjoy the ride, but if you want to drive...you can do that...too!

Be sure to 'Czech Out" the other information on our website about the optional tours, the gardens, speakers, the Marriott Hotel and other activities. It will be a fun and busy week!

Please....come and 'Czech it Out!"

Watch for more information on the AHS convention website:

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Conventions.html or go directly to the 2014 National Hosta Convention website:

http://harshbargerhostasociety.weebly.com/.

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

- 9 exciting gardens for you to visit on Friday and Saturday
- More Optional gardens on Sunday as you return home
- Tourist Attractions
 - o The Amana Colonies
 - National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library
- Stay at the *Collins Road Marriott* Hotel

Fill out the 2014 AHS National Hosta Convention Registration Form and mail it ASAP.



2014 AHS National Hosta Convention Registration

June 11 - 14, 2014 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society

Please check out our website at HarshbargerHostaSociety.org

** Please fill out a separate form for each person being registered ** Name as you would like it to appear on your name badge: Address: City: State: *Email: *Registration confirmation will be sent by email only. No refunds after June 1, 2014 Publish my name in the Conference Attendee list? Yes ____ No _ A current handbook is required and may be downloaded for free at americanhostasociety.org JUDGES Check here if you want to purchase the handbook for \$10.00 at the clinic CLINIC Please note which clinic(s) you will attend. ____ Clinic I (Wed. evening) _____ Clinic II _____ Clinic III (times to be announced) I plan to: Enter Judge Clerk HOSTA Please enter the number of entries in each category you plan to submit (limit of 20 leaves per garden in Div. I) SHOW Division: I - Cut Leaf II - Containers III - Troughs IV - Education VI - Artistic No. of Entries: I will donate plants or items for the Friday Night Auction. (proceeds to go to AHS) Yes ____ (approx. no.) __ Will you need a ride for the garden tour? Yes No This will be a drive-yourself garden tour. Can you offer a ride for others on the tour? Yes ____ No ____ One bus will be available (see our website for details) Friday: Beef ____ Tilapia ____ Full Registration \$175 DINNER Saturday: Pork & Sauerkraut (postmarked before May 23) OPTIONS Chicken Paprika Late Registration \$200 Both Nights: Veg. ____ Gl. Free _ (postmarked May 23 or after) Tour of Amana Colonies (June 11) \$55 For a complete description of the includes lunch at Ox Yoke Inn registration options, full schedule and Dinner at Czech Museum (June 12) \$45 latest updates, please refer to Garden Tour Bus \$55 HarshbargerHostaSociety.org first 50 to sign up, box lunch on Friday Send registration and check payable Meals Only Registration \$125 to AHS 2014 Convention to: Credit Card Fee \$10 Diann Pavelka 600 Main St. Total - payable in US funds Lisbon, IA 52253 All convention registrants assume all responsibility for liability. If paying by credit card: Cedar Rapids Marriott Visa MC Am Ex Disc 1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 Name as it appears on card: cwp.marriot.com/cidmc/americanhostasociety Convention Rates of \$114.00 - reserve by May 27th Card Number: Make reservations by calling 1-800-396-2153 Expiration Date: and mentioning 'Hosta Convention'. 3 Digit Code on Back:

The American Hosta Society Popularity Poll 2014

Please rank in order of preference from most liked (1) to least favorite.

Favorite Hostas	Favorite Hostas		
1)	1)		
2)	2)		
3)	3)		
4)	4)		
5)	5)		
6)			
7)	Hosta Journal Ideas		
8)	1)		
9)	2)		
10)	3)		

Include your:	Print and Mail to:
Name:	_ Bob Olson
Address:	_ AHS Popularity Poll
City/State:	2840 Glenhurst St.
e-mail:	_ St. Louis Park, MN 55416

"Vote early, vote often"

- Bob Olson

or e-mail to:

TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com

or Vote Online:

www.hosta.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 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 *eNewsletters* (emailed), *The Online Journal* (posted on the web for members only). All of these give 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 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. Go to http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ahsvoucherprogram.html to learn more.

Please join today by going to

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/ZenCart/index.php to join online or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.