



Can you name these hostas?  
Hints are in the photos!

Answers on Page 5



## Don Dean

AHS President

### Presidents Message

As AHS President, I am sincerely gratified with past progress and hope for the future looking forward into 2015.

I wish to express my appreciation to the many people at all levels of the leadership core for their thoughtful contributions that keyed success in 2014. Their continued commitment to creative new elements planned for 2015 will bode well for the organization.

Winter months are a great time to consider joining the ranks of garden performance judges for the Benedict Garden Performance program. This program evaluates hosta performance when grown across a wide geographical area under widely varying conditions. Members and non-members benefit from the results of the balloting by having data that relays the message that "this plant is a performer in the garden." Members who visit gardens within their region and have three or more years of membership are encouraged to consider becoming judges. More judges allow us to garner a more representative view of the plants' performance from the voting results when more judges vote. Simple judge's application can be found by clicking upon "Garden Judge Application Form" here <http://americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/BenedictAward.htm>. Mail the form to Mike Greanya, 2204 Vandemere Rd., Jackson, MI 49201-8305.

Due to the influence of social media, a new position, Social Media Chair has been created. Rick Goodenough of Marshfield, MA, accepted this position and has established a noticeable presence to an audience of more than 3,000 viewers of the Facebook group, American Hosta Society. If you are interested simply type American Hosta Society in the

search bar near the top of the Facebook page and submit a request to join. The group is packed with stimulating hosta topics and quality photos year round from all over the world.

Other sources of electronic media information and reference material have been continually improved, significantly expanding the supply of information available for your perusal. Keep yourself current by checking the recent additions listed on the homepage of the AHS website. The Hosta Registry site has been updated, including registrations for 2011, 2012, 2013, and the findings of the Cultivar Origination Commission. The 2014 registrations will be posted in conjunction with the printing of the Registration Book, airing with the first issue of the *THJ*.

The January hosta calendar kicked off with the annual Online Auction. Donors and bidders outdid themselves once again this year. Excitement ran high, as we witnessed three plants reach or surpass the \$1,000 mark (first ever for AHS auctions), and the revenue raised exceeded our expectations. Check out the postings upon the AHS website at <http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Auctions.htm>, look for the 2015 Summary and Big Bid Items!

The 2015 annual convention is gearing up now. Consider joining us building memories, while sharing your enjoyment with those that attend. There will be great gardens, a hosta show, auction, wonderful people and more. It doesn't get any better. Go to <http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Conventions.htm> for more information. Anticipation runs high as we approach this event!

Success for the future related to continuing positive AHS programs requires dedicated people in your leadership positions. The coming 2015 convention provides the opportunity to vote for an Executive Committee to carry us forward through 2015 and into 2017. A nominating committee has been formed and can be accessed in two ways. Members are encouraged to submit nomina-

tions via a link in the Members Only section of the AHS website, or contact the Nominating Committee Chair directly via email. Harold McDonell, Georgia Hosta Society member and Alex J. Summers recipient, has accepted the role of chairing this committee. He asks that nominations be sent only via email or the web link to allow him to compile your input for the other members of the committee to consider. Please respect his home time by refraining from placing phone calls. Harold's contact info is on the masthead of each journal. Look for a link on the Members Only page of the AHS website ... "AHS Officer Nomination Mailbox."

Indications are that we shall all enjoy a fulfilling hosta year 2015. Be sure to renew your membership if you have not yet done so. Sharing one's excitement is quite enriching and memberships make a terrific gift for fellow gardening friends. Initiating new or continuing existing memberships will ensure that society benefits will continue to reach you and your friends. Your leadership is constantly exploring ways to encourage growth in our membership. Each of you may contribute to these efforts by inviting one friend to join for the same satisfying reasons that you are a member. I encourage all of you to share your enthusiasm for hosta at local meetings, while visiting nurseries, and in conversations. Let people know that additional insights can be accessed through the AHS. Together we can assure the future of this society. Enthusiasm is contagious and 'catching' the hosta bug is a definite positive, easily preferable to mowing more lawn!

As a reminder, the 2014 electronic password for current memberships continues to provide our members access to the Members-Only portion of the website, containing posted journals, and society business, until the spring issue of the *THJ* is distributed and posted on the site.

Best-laid plans sometimes fall short. This is particularly true when it comes to 'agricultural crops' being produced. The leadership was and continues to be quite excited to be able to bring you a new trial program,

the AHS Members-only Plant Program. The program's launch date has been delayed for one year to ensure that the size, quality, and the needed numbers we anticipate are reached prior to releasing the plants. Disappointment? Yes, but a plant that members will be excited to receive. Read more here [http://americanhostasociety.org/Membership/members\\_hosta.htm](http://americanhostasociety.org/Membership/members_hosta.htm).

In service,

*Don Dean*

AHS President



*Rob Mortko*

VP Member Services

The majority of you are AHS Members. You receive *The Hosta Journal* because you are a member of The American Hosta Society. Most will agree that the *Journal* is the most tangible and valued benefit of AHS membership. However, there are many other benefits of membership: *The Online Hosta Journal*, AHS Membership Directory, annual hosta Registrations issue, AHS Convention, Members-Only Garden Listing and AHS sponsored hosta research programs.

### **AHS Members-Only Plant Program Update**

Last June at the convention in Cedar Rapids the AHS announced the introduction of the Members-Only Plant Program. The intent was to begin taking orders this spring. The early response has been incredibly encouraging. Unfortunately we have experienced production delays and won't be able to begin taking orders until the spring of 2016. We want to be sure we have sufficient quantities (especially in light of the very positive re-

sponse to date), and that members receive well grown plants that are ready to place in their gardens.

One thing that has been decided, however, is that if a local Hosta Society would like to order plants for AHS members that belong to their society, the society may submit a bulk order. The cost of the plant would be the same. The savings would be in shipping multiple plants to one location. We just ask to include the names of the individuals that have ordered the plant to verify AHS membership. After all this is intended to be a benefit of membership in the AHS.

Thanks for your support and understanding. Hosta 'Sterling Medallion' is an incredible plant and will be worth the wait!

*Rob Mortko*

VP Member Services



*Mike Shadrack*

VP Awards and Honors

The volunteer who held this position before me, Chuck Zdeb, said that he had the best job of all. He said that he spent his time thanking people and it is always nice to be able to thank people. I totally agree. It was certainly a delight to be able to visit Peter Ruh last August and present him with a Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of the Board and members of the American Hosta Society.

It was also interesting to be able to thank, again on your behalf, all those volunteers who over the years have worked so hard

and unselfishly to promote our Society and to ensure that the organization runs smoothly and efficiently. Those members who qualified for the AHS Service Pin who attended the National Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa were presented their award pin in person and in addition received a thunderous round of applause. The scores of volunteers who qualified but were unable to be at the Convention received their pin in the mail. Several wrote wonderful thank you letters and cards in return.

I also have the opportunity to thank very special members of local Societies who are nominated by their peers for an official 'thank you'. By now all local Hosta Society Presidents should have received a letter in the mail inviting their Society to nominate hard working members for an AHS certificate of appreciation. This is the fourth year that we have invited such nominations and the names of those who have received a certificate in previous years appear on the Presidents 'Wall of Honor' on the AHS web site. If your Society has not received such a letter please contact me.

Nominations for the American Hosta Society's highest awards, the Alex J Summers Distinguished Merit Award and the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award are also called for. Nominations may be made on the form published in the On Line Journal, by email to [H8staman@aol.com](mailto:H8staman@aol.com) or by letter to VP Awards and Honors, 8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg, NY 14075. Nominations will be treated with the strictest confidence and the award is made by a small committee who very carefully appraise each nomination.

*Mike Shadrack*

VP Awards and Honors



## Cindy Tomashek

VP Conventions

### AHS Convention Sites

It's a new year and the excitement is building for another great convention! "Back to the Future" in Raleigh, North Carolina, hosted by perennially laid back Bob and Nancy Solberg is bound to offer up a special brand of southern hospitality, memorable gardens, vending (of course!), and a WOW of a Hosta Show featuring the latest and greatest from hybridizers across the country and around the world. Be sure to check out the latest updates to the convention web site – it has all the peachy details to whet your appetite for this summer's convention.

Early in February, those of you with email addresses should have received a special email with the 2015 registration form attached. If you didn't get that email, check to make sure that AHS has your most current email address. Also check your spam folder; it may have landed there. You can contact me at [pestonplants@aol.com](mailto:pestonplants@aol.com) to request the registration form.

For those who really like to plan ahead, SAVE THE DATE: June 15 –June 18, 2016, so you won't miss the garden lineup (6 NEW gardens plus 4 that have undergone total makeovers), optional tours (Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis City Gardens, Forest Park and more) plus a special opportunity for those who enjoy birding! "Gateway to the Gardens" in St. Louis, MO will also have the option of bus or drive-yourself tours.

Beyond that, we can anticipate the crew in Indianapolis burning up the track to bring us a sizzling convention, which will build up to the AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bash in Philadelphia in 2018. And those folks in Minneapolis...they roll on the decade, offering up once

again to host in 2020!!

The future of AHS is very bright with conventions planned out for a few years, but 2019 will arrive sooner than you think, so if your group has hosted in the past and taken a break for several years, please consider getting back in the mix. If you or your local society would consider hosting an annual convention, call me, send a text, or email me to share your plans or ask questions. We'd all like to know what 2019 venue will serve up the friendship.

As an AHS board member, I am humbled by the hard work hosts put into planning a convention...it is a great testament to their love and support of AHS and we could not thrive without them. If you would be willing to help out this summer, please let Bob and Nancy, or me, know – we'll find a way to plug you into a great experience!

And if you're in a tie-died mood, make your "Back to the Future" plans today.

2015 – June 17-21, "Back to the Future", Raleigh, North Carolina

2016 – June 15-18, "Gateway to the Gardens", St. Louis, Missouri

2017 – Indianapolis, Indiana

2018 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2019 – ??

2020 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Conventionally yours,

*Cindy Tomashek*

AHS VP Conventions  
(507) 250-5311

[Prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:pestonplants@aol.com)

### Hostas pictured on Page 1

(top left, to bottom right):

'Diamond Tiara', 'Little Treasure', Fried Bananas', 'Stained Glass', 'Old Glory', 'Guacamole', 'Lemon Lime' and 'Rhino Hide'.



*Sandie*  
*Markland*  
Membership Secretary

You might have noticed that we added some new options for renewals last 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), save some trees (more shade for hostas!) and save a little 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](http://www.hosta.org)

The 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!

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.

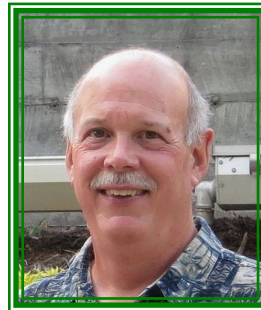
It is important to keep the AHS Membership Secretary informed of changes in your contact information. If you do not receive AHS mailings due to an unreported change of address, a \$6.00 payment is required to cover the cost of shipping and handling for the replacement issue. Please send address changes as promptly as possible to [AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net). Individuals who travel between summer and winter homes should advise the Membership Secretary of their change of address approxi-

mately 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*  
Membership Secretary



*Michael*  
*Greanya*  
Benedict Garden  
Performance Chair

### Reminder: Benedict Garden Performance Medal Nominations

The Benedict Garden Performance Medal is the highest award given by the American Hosta Society recognizing one registered cultivar that has demonstrated superior garden performance over time, exhibits cultural superiority, and can be appreciated in the landscape from a distance and up close. If you, as the originator or hybridizer of a cultivar, think that your hosta exhibits these traits and it has been registered for at least 3 years, please consider nominating it for this prestigious award. Nominations are due immediately so don't wait to send the nomination in. Before sending in your nomination, please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the awards process and its requirements by visiting the AHS link at: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Section%20IV%20-%20GardenPerformance.pdf>. Email your nominations to Michael Greanya, Benedict Garden Performance Chair at [mfg10@comcast.net](mailto:mfg10@comcast.net).

*Michael Greanya*  
Benedict Garden Performance Chair



*Joshua Spece*  
Web Editor-in-Chief

## AHS Electronic Payments

If you have a sharp eye, you may have noticed some minor changes on the AHS website this winter as you renewed your membership, purchased advertising or paid for your online auction winnings. Back in November, the AHS discontinued the use of PayPal to process credit card payments. This decision will not only reduce fees the AHS pays in order to accept credit cards, but it will also make the AHS Treasurer's job much easier.

For the most part, this change has no effect on how you are used to joining or renewing your membership. The biggest change will be for those of you who are used to using your personal PayPal account to make your payment. We no longer can accept PayPal payments, but you may use a credit card to join the AHS or renew your membership. You will find the checkout procedure very similar to making any other online purchase. And rest assured, all of your sensitive payment details are encrypted and secure.

When the AHS did use PayPal, there was the option to checkout without creating an account on the AHS Membership store. This is no longer an option. If the system tells you that there is already an account associated with your email address, just click the "Forgot your password?" link directly below the Returning Customers login box. You will receive a new password in your email. If you have never renewed your membership online or are joining the AHS for the first time, you will create an account and set a password of your choice during the checkout process.

The Members-Only password is in no way associated with logging in to renew your AHS membership.

For businesses purchasing advertising on the AHS website or in *The Hosta Journal*, the checkout procedure is very straight forward. Simply click the "Buy Now" button for the appropriate ad type. Then select Credit Card for the Payment Type and enter your payment information. To complete the purchase, click the "Submit" button.

For those of you who won items in the recent (and very exciting!) AHS online Auction, payment by credit card was a two-step process. Within the email notifying you of your winning bid, there was a link to the auction payment page. The first page asks you to enter your auction alias and the items you won.

Upon clicking the "Submit" button, you will land on Step Two. You must click the "Pay Now" button to proceed to the payment information page. Then select Credit Card for the Payment Type and enter your payment information, including the total amount you are paying. To complete the purchase, click the "Submit" button.

The extra step in the auction payment process is necessary to ensure we can credit your payment to the items you purchased. This information is obviously arriving too late for the 2015 auction, but I wanted to cover all points of online payments currently accepted on the website.

This may all sound complicated, but I assure you, it is not! It will all make sense once you start the process. Please be sure to carefully read any information presented on any payment pages you land on. The information is there to help you and includes important details.

As always, if you ever have questions regarding the American Hosta Society website, please do not hesitate to contact me!

*Joshua Spece*  
Web Editor-in-Chief



*Gregg Peterson*  
VP Judging/Exhibitions

## AHS Judging Clinics

While the date on the calendar and the weather outside aren't pointing to spring and the summer growing season, it isn't too early for local and regional hosta societies to begin planning their 2015 clinic offerings. Kathie Sisson, AHS Judges' Training Chair would appreciate all groups planning on offering any of the clinics to be in touch with her so that she can make plans to provide forms, materials and tests to use in conducting the clinic. If your group can let Kathie know the date of your clinic(s), she can also help with getting the word out to the AHS membership. Finally, if your society has thought about offering a clinic, but is unsure about how to set up and conduct one, please feel free to contact either Kathie or myself and we will be happy to assist you in helping to set one up.

Finally, we are in the beginning stages of soliciting suggestions from judges who have been teaching either Clinic I or Clinic II to help us evaluate what has been working and what has not and needs to be changed. After receiving input from the judging community members who have been involved in conducting these clinics, we will look at what changes to the clinic outlines and tests should be made to address any areas of weakness. Please forward any thoughts, suggestions for improvement or feedback about the effectiveness of the clinic training programs to Kathie.

## Updating the AHS Judges Handbook

We are asking all judges to take some time this winter and into the spring to go through

their AHS Judges Handbook. The first reason is to review what your role and responsibilities are as a judge in a Hosta Show. A second important reason is to remind yourself what records you need to keep of your training, judging and exhibiting activities and how to report them in a timely manner to advance or maintain your active judging status.

We also are continuing to gather input/corrections and suggestions to an upcoming update of the Handbook. We need to have ALL AHS Judges take some time to review the Handbook and let us know what is working, as well as what is not, and any suggestions to help improve the judging process. So as you go through the Handbook and then participate as a judge, clerk or other show position this year, make a note on what areas of the Handbook were well organized and worked as they were supposed to in your show and also what areas of the Handbook didn't work well or were cumbersome or difficult to work with. Make any notes of problems, suggestions and concerns in your Handbook margins of the section and then forward all of your ideas and comments to either Kathie Sisson or myself. After collecting information from the judges, a committee of judges will work on how to make the necessary changes and/or corrections. As we move forward in this process, we are also mindful of how this updating will affect the judging group, as we consider how to make sure that all judges end up working from the most current and updated Judges Handbook. But the first step is to have us hear from the judges!!

## Hosta Shows

It's not too early to begin the planning for your local or regional society Hosta Show. Claudia Walker, AHS Hosta Shows Chair, is ready to work with groups on their show planning and preparations.

Please feel free to contact her and she will work with your group on how to prepare a Hosta Show schedule and then get it approved as an AHS accredited show. She also



can work with your group on procuring show materials such as the entry classification tags. Let's make 2015 a banner year in terms of the number of Hosta Shows that are scheduled and held!!

To contact Kathie Sisson, Claudia Walker or myself go to the American Hosta Society website, pull down the Hosta Judging tab and then click on the Show Judging tab.

*Gregg Peterson*  
VP Judging/Exhibitions



**It's Never Too Early to Start Thinking About "Best of Show"**



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



*Bob Olson*

Editor - *The Hosta Journal*

### *The Hosta Journal*

Mid-April is when the *Journal* is scheduled to hit the post office for mailing. In this issue you will find DIY ways to improve your gardening, research on hostas, garden artistry, companion plants, hosta history and “hot hostas”. There will also be a section on hosta basics.

Many of us don’t stop to realize that a good number of our members are new to hostas. Actually, we’d like to have a lot more “new to hosta” members. And we’d like to have ALL our members say, “I learn something new and very useful every time I read the *Journal*.”

As usual we are interested in your ideas for *Journal* articles. If you’d like to submit an article, please send it to me for consideration. The *Journal* is always looking for new writers, new points of view and new topics. Things are changing in the hosta world—and we want to be at the cutting edge.

### Vote !

Watch for two ballots accompanying your next copy of *The Hosta Journal*. Join the upswing in voting for the Benedict Garden Performance Medal—eligible voters are Garden Performance Judges. Directions are included for becoming a Judge. It’s easier than you think. You may already be qualified.

Also, look for your AHS Popularity Poll ballot and vote for your favorite hostas. We encourage everyone to vote in the Popularity Poll. The more votes, the more representative the Poll becomes. And the result of the Popularity Poll is the most often requested item from the *Journal*.

*Bob Olson*

Editor - *The Hosta Journal*



# 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.