



*Don Dean*

AHS President

## Presidents Message

This winter has been anything but “normal” or predictable with torrential rains and record setting snowfalls in parts of the hosta world, and even relatively mild temps and amounts of snow in the upper Midwest. Hosta lovers’ passion for their plants and anticipation of a new growing season, however, has predictably run true to form!

Our annual American Hosta Society Online Auction was a great success again! We had multiple new donors. Donors and bidders alike outdid themselves once again. Gracious giving does not quite capture their role in this fundraiser. Jojo’s flair for words was missing this year. She has chosen to devote more time to her greatest passion ... grandchildren. Her descriptions will be missed, but a familiar writing style filled the gap. Thanks go out to Warren Pollock for assisting with several descriptions. A thanks also goes to Josh Spece for his timely tech support. Results and “Big Bid Items” can be viewed at <http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Auctions.htm> . A total of \$8,471 was raised! The results speak to the anticipation of new hosta coming for the bidders. The positive results of seed bidding scream of the bidders’ anticipation and dreams of hostas to come.

Hosta forums in social media are flourishing. Check out the American Hosta Society and also Growers of Hosta Seed groups upon Facebook if you have not yet. Photos and discussion are added daily. Many other electronic forums are very active as we look forward to the arrival of spring.

Dreaming of the coming season? Consider this summer’s premier hosta event, the AHS Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. There is no event that compares to the numbers of people gathered from around the globe to talk, learn and enjoy hostas! Details are ready to view at <http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/Conventions.htm> . This page includes live links to registration, schedule, and hotel information. Consider joining the many that gather each year to rekindle friendships and enjoy their passion together!

The beginning of a new season also marks the beginning of the process for registering new plants. A change in the role of International Registrar for the Genus *Hosta* has occurred with the transition nearly completed. Kevin Walek has been working with his replacement, Gayle Hartley Alley, to ensure a smooth transition. There are no words to capture the degree of expertise and commitment to the role of Registrar that Kevin has provided for many years. Similarly, Gayle has continued in the same vein of commitment and energy that Kevin did. She is devoted to her newly accepted role as Registrar. Look forward to the next issue of *The Hosta Journal* this spring to learn more about Gayle.

Changes regarding registration are posted

## 2016 Online Auction!

### Check out the Results

<http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/ahsresults16.htm>

and

### Big Bid Items

<http://americanhostasociety.org/Activities/16onlineBigBidPlants.htm>

upon the AHS website. These are applicable beginning now for the 2016 registrations pending submission throughout the year, due by the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. A new registration form is posted upon the AHS website under the “Registering Hosta” drop-down menu. Be sure to access the form from this location, <http://americanhostasociety.org/RegisteringHosta/RegisteringHosta.htm> . The Registry website is anticipated to reflect all pending updates soon. Those considering registration of a hosta this year may download the new, revised printable PDF here: <http://americanhostasociety.org/RegisteringHosta/registration form.pdf>.

More change is in place prior to the transition into another growing season. Jim Weidman graciously served as our *Online Journal* Editor through a transition period during 2015 and will be pursuing other directions in 2016. Barry Ankney has been appointed to continue and expand his role working upon the *Online Journal* team to assume the role and responsibilities as editor. Many thanks are extended to



both for their efforts past, and Barry's commitment into the future.

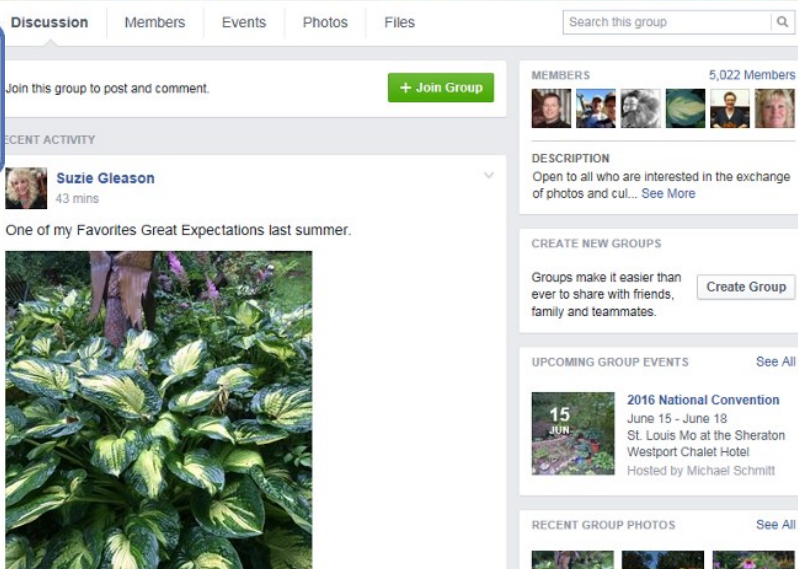
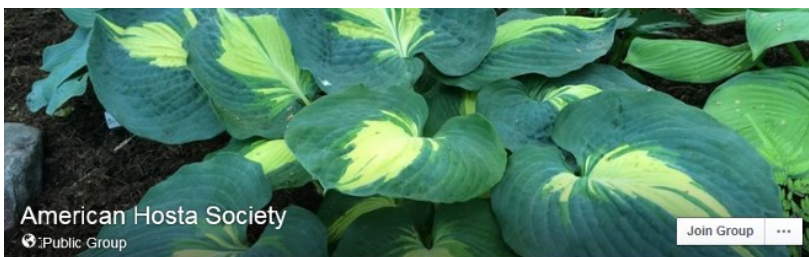
Everyone is encouraged to keep visiting the AHS website for all recent changes and additions by simply clicking the red "recent changes" button found upon the homepage. Members are encouraged to go to the Members Section to keep apprised of items pertaining to the membership of our society.

Speaking of membership, it is renewal time! Those receiving the E-newsletter that are not members are invited to give our society a closer look. It is time to join to ensure you receive a full year's of publications and other benefits.

In service,

*Don Dean*

**AHS President**



## **New International Registrar for the Genus *Hosta***

**Gayle Hartley Alley**

**33001 E 155th Street**

**Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-9365**

**Newly revised registration form:**

[http://americanhostasociety.org/RegisteringHosta/registration\\_form.pdf](http://americanhostasociety.org/RegisteringHosta/registration_form.pdf)



## Cindy Tomashek

VP Member Services

### AHS exclusive Member-Only Plant

2016 is the inaugural year for rolling out the first AHS exclusive member only plant. The order form will be posted online at approximately the same time as THJ arrives in your mail box, which will include the order form as a ride along. Get your order in promptly – orders will be taken on a first come-first filled basis until supplies are exhausted. To keep things simple for the initial offering, only payment by check will be accepted, mailed with the order form to Sandie Markland, AHS Membership secretary. She will verify AHS membership and forward shipping information on to the shipper. Shipping will commence late June. We hope this is a ‘sterling’ experience for everyone! I am certainly looking forward to observing *Hosta* ‘Sterling Medallion’ in gardens across the country.

### To all club Presidents & Newsletter Editors

Many clubs have a change of board members in the beginning of the year, so please promptly report email changes to Mary Arberg, Newsletter Editor Coordinator ([mkarnberg@comcast.net](mailto:mkarnberg@comcast.net)), and all NLE’s when an editor change takes place in your club. Presidents, be sure to check your website link on the AHS web site periodically and provide new information as changes occur or to report problems with the link. Susan Hedrick, AHS Club Liaison Chair, will help you update or correct contact information. [ahsclubpresidents@yahoo.com](mailto:ahsclubpresidents@yahoo.com)

### Follow AHS on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2248595978/>

Have you seen the wonderful pictures on the AHS Facebook page lately? If you haven’t visited it recently, take a few minutes to soak up some excitement about our favorite genus by checking it out. Moderator, Rick Goode-nough, AHS Social Media Chair, facilitates the AHS Facebook page and, thanks to great information, photos and posts from around the world, you will find your time well spent.

The AHS is committed to serving our members ...helping you grow in your *Hosta* knowledge through connecting you with the AHS hosta community. Invite your gardening friends to connect, too, and bring them along to your local society meetings, regional gatherings and national conventions so they can experience why *Hosta* have earned the nickname “the friendship plant”.

## Cindy Tomashek

VP Member Services

(507) 250-5311

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



H. ‘Sterling Medallion’



*Rob Mortko*  
AHS VP Conventions



## AHS Conventions

Mark your calendar now for June 15-18. The St. Louis Hosta Society will be hosting the 2016 AHS National Convention. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. Enjoy great tour gardens, a hosta show, auction, vending, seminars, banquet speakers (including keynote speaker Dr. Parwinder Grewal who will report on the AHS Foliar Nematode Research Project) and hostality.

The following link will take you to the convention website. Of particular note is the registration form has recently been posted. You can set your own pace and drive to the tour gardens. Or you can enjoy the totally unique convention comradery by optionally taking a tour bus. However there are limited bus seats available, so don't delay in getting your registration form submitted. Also save by postmarking your registration before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

See you soon in ol' St. Louie at the Gateway to the Gardens convention.

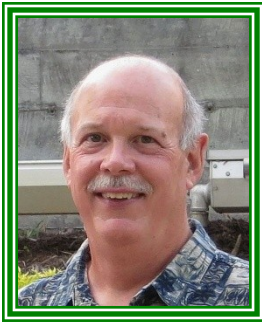
<http://www.stlouishosta.org/2016Convention/2016Convention.htm>

Conventionally yours,

*Rob Mortko*

AHS VP Conventions





## *Michael Greanya*

Benedict Garden Performance Chair

### **ORIGINATORS, HYBRIDIZERS, OR REGISTRANTS OF HOSTA ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE THEIR CULTIVARS FOR THE 2016 BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

If you have registered a hosta with the American Hosta Society and you believe your cultivar: 1) is garden worthy, 2) can be appreciated in the landscape from a distance and under close observation, and 3) demonstrates cultural superiority, please consider nominating that cultivar for Benedict Garden Performance Awards right now. The Benedict Garden Performance Award is the highest recognition given by the American Hosta Society (AHS) honoring a registered hosta. Nominations will be held open for 2 weeks after this article has been disseminated.

Only you as either the originator, hybridizer, or the registrant of a hosta cultivar may make the nomination for the awards program. We hope that you will take a moment and seriously consider nominating a cultivar of yours if you think it may exhibit those qualities that set your hosta apart from the others. To find out more about the requirements for nomination of your cultivar, please visit the following link that explains in detail the award process and the information you will need to make your nomination: [http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Benedict%20Awards/Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan.pdf](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/Benedict%20Awards/Benedict%20Garden%20Performance%20Awards%20Plan.pdf)

For additional information and information on how to submit your nomination, please email the Benedict Garden Performance Chair at the email address below.

## *Michael Greanya*

Benedict Garden Performance Chair  
mfg10@comcast.net





*Amy Peterson*

VP Awards and Honors

## Volunteering

Congratulations, as a member of a hosta society and/or AHS you are a volunteer. Since membership is a choice you are a volunteer by definition. So why did you join? At first for me it was education focused. I wanted to learn more about shade gardening, joining the local society was inexpensive and we had a small area in the yard that was in full shade. Little did I know the next yard, of about an acre, would also be shady. So a new motivation was access to plants whether through local society club events or networking for where good vendors were in our general region. What didn't happen early on was "volunteering" for tasks within the local society. Life was busy with children and career.

As we got to know our hosta society members and leaders, we were encouraged to consider attending a regional convention, our first volunteer attendance occurring about 3-4 years into our hosta journey. Milwaukee was the venue and I can remember bidding for that first voluntary purchase *H. 'Full Monty'*. At that time we had limited "extra money" but were thrilled to add this hosta to our growing collection. Our initial purchases had names that fit a theme (Naughty, Patriotic, Star Trek, Red Stocking (for red petioles), etc) and not necessarily great plant characteristics. As our frequency in attending regional conventions increased so did our interest in the hosta show and how to select leaves to show. This led to

attending judging clinic classes, another voluntary choice, where we learned a great deal about hosta features and terminology. Our garden now had many mature clumps, and our new training made it easier to make show leaf choices. Hence participation in the hosta show became another voluntary activity we enjoyed and ultimately led to judging and clerking on a regular basis. Hubby really got into learning the plant characteristics and progressed to master judge, applying his knowledge as the "Hosta Guy" while working at a local greenhouse and becoming a Master Gardener volunteer. As my career advanced I was balancing work responsibilities with those of the family so my volunteering was more limited. But we both made time to support the local society in hosting the AHS National Convention in 2010. Gregg organized the educational speakers and I helped organize the plethora of task specific volunteers needed when hosting a convention.

As the years passed, our sons went off to college and we realized we soon would be empty nesters and have more "together" time. Since both of us really enjoyed our garden, hunting for hosta, traveling and the friendships we developed in our local hosta society this became our "together" activity. So we added (volunteered) attending National AHS conventions as well as regional conventions, which partially satisfied the traveling bug, and met many great people with like interest in hosta. We routinely helped with hosta show organization, judging and clerking. Gregg took on leadership roles in the local hosta society as well as national. He also joined the local garden club volunteer speaker circuit giving numerous talks on hosta and opening our garden for tours. His speaking engagement resulted in a number of donations to and increased awareness of our local hosta society and AHS. His speaking/educating on hosta leveraged a

skill he has as an adult educator. In early 2015, I semi-retired and now have more free time. So when asked to join the AHS board I was ready, and felt this role would utilize my management skills as well as my desire to see the AHS remain a thriving organization. The added benefit is both Gregg and I are currently on the Board so this is another “together” activity we enjoy.

As I reflect on my 16 years of “hosta” volunteering journey I recognize our motivations have evolved. We have progressed from observers to minimal participants to fully engaged leaders. Our hosta purchase behavior went from buying a few, to coming home with a car load back to a select few (garden space is full). Both of us are tired of moving rock edging and yards of dirt for new beds, so we now include new hosta in our seasonal containers. We developed similar yet different areas of interest, Gregg likes mini’s and blue hosta and I like extra large and yellow hosta but also a variety of companion plants. We added organizing and leadership roles to hosta shows and convention set up, and still plan on attending conventions to see friends, new gardens and show leaves.

These are my reflections on volunteering in association with hosta. As you reflect on your volunteer journey have your motivations and focus of interest changed over time: knowledge, plant access, social, travel, leadership, etc. Your enjoyment and satisfaction in any endeavor including volunteering in a hosta society requires a union of your interests with those the activity provides. Have you recently voiced your area(s) of interest? Speaking up will help your leadership team know what you like and dislike, and any input should help them with planning. Have you thanked your leadership and others for their volunteer ef-

forts? Have you considered where you can contribute by volunteering and communicated this to your society leadership?

As society leaders do we recognize when planning that the journey is different for each member and to retain volunteers/membership we need variety in programs to meet diverse membership interests? Do we know our volunteers well enough to know when opportunities present themselves who may be interested in volunteering? Do we have a basic process for matching skills and interests with organizational needs? Do we create a welcoming environment for new volunteers and understand that new participants likely means letting go and doing some things in a new way. Do we acknowledge volunteerism whether the contribution is small or large, one time or over a longer period of time? Is volunteer recognition part of each meeting and newsletter? Our volunteer membership is what makes our hosta societies vibrant and sustainable – nourish, encourage, promote it.

Currently the AHS is requesting nominations from each local hosta society for selected membership to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their volunteerism. Each local hosta society can nominate two members for recognition annually. Society presidents should have received an email requesting nomination (due April 1, 2016) in January. To see 2015 and prior recipients check out the list on the AHS website Awards and Honors / President’s Wall of Honor tab.

Two other prestigious awards are also seeking nominations. The first is the Alex J. Summers award an award to recognize service to the genus or to the AHS society or both. The second is the Eunice Fisher Award which recognizes those whose contributions



lie mainly in the area of hybridizing. The AHS website also lists past winners for these awards.

In closing, a sincere THANKS to all past volunteers that have made local hosta societies and AHS a vibrant organizations! I look forward to working together.

*Amy Peterson*

VP Awards and Honors



*Joshua Spece*

Web Editor-in-Chief

## 2015 AHS Popularity Poll

It is time to cast your votes for the annual AHS Hosta Popularity Poll!

Think of warmer days and take a 'mental' 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](http://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](mailto:thehostajournal@hotmail.com).

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

Josh

*Joshua Spece*

Web Editor-in-Chief



*Gregg Peterson*  
**VP Judging/Exhibitions**

**“Take a Minute to Invite Someone”**

We all know that one of the most successful methods of recruiting new members to our local hosta society is simply extend a personal invitation. The power of showing the interest in a potential new member and then following it up with a heartfelt and sincere personal invitation is tremendous. Think back to when someone extended a personal invitation to you to join a group or a particular event and how good it made you feel.

We can also take the personal invitation down to an individual event or activity in our local groups and have similar results. Extending a personal invitation to someone who has not been real active in the society will many times result in that member becoming an involved participant in the activity and feeling much more satisfied with their membership in the organization.

My challenge to those of you who are active Hosta Show exhibitors is to take the time to extend a personal invitation to someone either inside or outside your hosta society to become involved in exhibiting in your next show. Stop to think of members and even visitors who come to view your Hosta Show each year, but haven't participated in the show. Consider members who have volunteered to have their garden on tour; you know they can grow great looking hostas and are proud to share their interest with other members. Finally, think of focusing on relatively new members of your group, who will state that they are just starting

out and don't have a large collection. There is nothing in the Hosta Show schedule or entry card that asks what the size of your collection is or how long you have been a member. All of these people are potential new show exhibitors who just need to be personally invited and offered a hand to get them started. Just think if each experienced exhibitor were to extend a personal invitation to one new person; how more vibrant and exciting our shows would be with new exhibitors and attendees!!

On the flip side, if you have ever considered exhibiting in a Hosta Show, but were unsure of how the process works, don't be afraid to ask someone. Whether it might be a member of your hosta society that exhibits at a local show, or someone you have seen exhibiting at a regional or national show; step right up, introduce yourself and say that you're interested in exhibiting at a show. You will find that hosta show exhibitors will bend over backwards to help you, providing helpful tips to get you started along with being a mentor to turn to at each step of entering an exhibit or cut leaves in a show.

All of us who are exhibitors started out in the same situation and had the support of an experienced person(s) to “show us the vases”. You will find that show exhibitors truly demonstrate why the hosta is referred to as the “friendship plant”.

So whether you are extending the invitation or are on the receiving end of a personal invitation, consider stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new this spring or summer. I think you'll find that you'll have fun and probably make a new friend or friends in the process.

*Gregg Peterson*

**VP Judging/Exhibitions**



# 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.