





**Don Dean**  
**AHS President**

### **Presidents Message**

Spring! Many among our readership have been experiencing the joys that come with the arrival of spring for weeks while others are beginning to realize the promise of spring's arrival. Spring is that time of growth, new life beginnings, transformations, fresh opportunities, and a cleaning out or cleansing yet remembering how the gardens became what they are this year. The American Hosta Society is not unlike spring; we are excited about a few transformations and opportunities that are coming in the near future all the while, remembering the past.

Last August, work began to refresh our website. A team with diverse areas of expertise and talents was assembled. The team was organized into two groups. The first group, which includes the entire group of Genus Hosta volunteers, is focused upon content. The second group is a site design team. The site design team includes our Webmaster-in-Chief, VP Publications, and Howard Black, a nonmember. Howard is a professor from Eastern Illinois University in the area of Medicinal Chemistry and designs websites as a hobby, lucky us! Our webmaster, Josh Spece, oversees the entire team. The project has been met with a high degree of energy and commitment. Indeed, the result is renewal and transformation with the promise of new opportunities.

Phase I of refreshing the website has now been completed and launched! Take some time to view our new look at <http://www.hosta.org>. Phase I to reorganize the site for ease of finding information, updated the information that previously existed, and made more items available to nonmembers as well as maintained

a members only section. Phase II is targeted at additions to the current information; this phase has been worked on and progress will continue into the future. Notice a link that is located upon the home page. It states "recent changes". Keep checking into the site while new additions are added throughout the years to come.

Our annual convention is quickly approaching. This event is packed with activities enhance your hosta experience. There is no better opportunity to make new or rekindle existing friendship with people with a similar passion from across the country and around the world. Consider joining us as a new member or continuing member in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration for this event is due by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Details about the coming convention can be viewed at <http://harshbargerhostasociety.weebly.com/>.

Joining us as a new member is made easy by going to the AHS website and selecting the dropdown menu item entitled "Membership".

Much has been mentioned about volunteerism within my previous messages. The AHS enters its forty-sixth year and exists through countless volunteer hours over the course of these years. Data looking specifically at years of service has recently been collected. The number of volunteers and their service has yielded an amazing set of facts that help us all remember how we came to be and continue to exist today. Two hundred-two individuals have dedicated an aggregate of one thousand, three hundred, forty-three years of volunteerism. Thank you!

Garden well into the 2014-growing season, transform, and take advantage of the opportunities available as they present themselves. Together, we may grow.

In service,  
*Don Dean*  
AHS President

## American Hosta Society Executive Board

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



**Rob Mortko**  
VP Member Services

The Beth Bowler Memorial Hosta Walk at the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden has been added to the growing list of AHS National Display Gardens. Located in Moscow, Idaho this hosta walk was established in 2006 to demonstrate the amazing diversity within the genus and how to use hostas in the landscape. You can find more info on the display garden program on the AHS website (see link below).

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Community/DisplayGardens.htm>

The AHS Speakers List is currently being updated on the AHS website as a service to our local and regional hosta societies. If you are an active (or even prospective) speaker, please supply the following information to Joy Collura at [jdsongraham@aol.com](mailto:jdsongraham@aol.com).

1. Contact Info
2. Profile, background
3. Topics
4. Travel distance available
5. Calendar time available
6. Please submit a recent digital picture

*Rob Mortko*  
VP Member Services



**Cindy Tomashek**  
VP Conventions

“Czech It Out” is your ticket to super summer fun with hosta friends...Don already filled you in. What, you didn't read his article?? If not, go back and “Czech It Out”! June 11-14 is only a couple months

off and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Cedar Rapids. Remember the three R's: Register, Reserve, Relax.

With **Solbergs putting together the 2015 convention in Raleigh**, things are looking good. Happily, there have been additional exciting developments regarding future conventions. Drum roll please...**applause goes to St. Louis** for stepping up to host the **2016** convention, and, another drum roll please, **applause goes to Indianapolis** for stepping up to host the **2017** convention! Returning to these great venues will be a true pleasure or a wonderful first for those who missed past opportunities. On behalf of AHS, we are grateful for all these folks willing to help out through hosting a convention. It takes a lot of work, so don't be shy about contacting the leadership of the convention to volunteer, and remember to thank them for their efforts after enjoying their convention. The Harshbarger Hosta Society has worked diligently to bring a great convention to you this summer, so offer to help – it's not too late – and certainly thank them for what I am sure will be a great convention.

It's never too soon to indicate your interest in hosting a future AHS convention and there are more possibilities than ever to create a one-of-a-kind event. Start collaborating with your local society, friends or neighbors and give me a call, text, or email me to share your plans or ask questions...**2018** will be here before you know it.

Keep checking 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!

- 2014 – Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 2015 – Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2016 – St. Louis, Missouri
- 2017 – Indianapolis, Indiana

**See you in Cedar Rapids!**

Conventionally yours,  
**Cindy Tomashek**  
VP Conventions



**Cindy Deutekom**  
VP Genus Hosta Report

**Foliar Nematode Research Project - Progress Report**

We have some very encouraging results from our Stage 1 testing. A variety of products including Clorox, ZeroTol, Nemakill, Pylon and Ammonia proved 100% effective with direct contact in test wells.

Hosta buds and soil samples were collected from selected gardens in Tennessee in February and were examined for overwintering nematode juveniles and eggs. Once again no eggs were found in the buds, but nematode juveniles were found in the buds and in the soil. As Dr. Grewal has published previously, the nematodes only overwinter in the juvenile form but not as eggs. Tissue staining in another experiment confirms previous findings that the nematodes do not infect hosta tissues/buds and most-likely move externally to invade and infect expanded leaves in the spring. This makes any potential nematode treatment a bit simpler, as we do not have to worry about the eggs sitting in the hosta buds during the winter.

For the second phase, the best of the products used in Phase I will be used. The Advisory Committee is currently evaluating which products to test further.

Two experiments will be done in the next 3 months. The first will apply treatment at soil and crowns to prevent foliar nematodes from migrating upwards and producing leaf symptoms. The second experiment will be to evaluate the selected chemicals to prevent nematode infection from occurring.

For more information on the new nematode study, here is the link:  
<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Nematodes.html>.

**Cindy Deutekom**  
VP Genus Hosta



**Sandie Markland  
AHS Membership  
Secretary**

You might have noticed that we have some new membership options for 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](http://www.hosta.org)

Here's an easy way to keep track of when your membership is due to expire: 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 (and appreciated) to renew in a timely manner in order to avoid late fees and keep out mailings lists up to date for the spring Journal. Mailing that first issue of the year

individually to late renewals is a costly process!

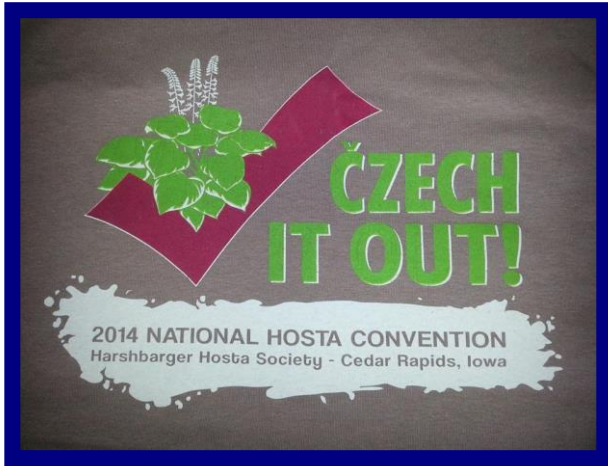
It is also important to keep the AHS Membership Secretary informed of changes in your contact information. If you do not receive AHS mailings due to an unreported change of address, a \$6.00 payment is required to cover the cost of shipping and handling for the replacement issue. Please send address changes to [AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto: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! This is a fantastic time of year to give the gift of AHS Membership --- those new members receive a voucher in their welcome packet worth \$15 toward their purchases at participating vendors!

Happy gardening everyone!!!

*Sandie Markland*  
AHS Membership Secretary

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



The 2014 AHS Convention is coming soon. The Harshbarger Hosta Society will be your 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 town. 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!'

Convention information on the AHS convention website:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Conventions.html>

or go directly to the 2014 Nation 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
  - 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](http://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: _____
Zip Code: _____	Phone: _____	*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

<b>JUDGES CLINIC</b>	A current handbook is required and may be downloaded for free at <a href="http://americanhostasociety.org">americanhostasociety.org</a> _____ Check here if you want to purchase the handbook for \$10.00 at the clinic Please note which clinic(s) you will attend. _____ Clinic I (Wed. evening) _____ Clinic II _____ Clinic III (times to be announced)
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<b>HOSTA SHOW</b>	I plan to: _____ Enter _____ Judge _____ Clerk _____ Please enter the number of entries in each category you plan to submit (limit of 20 leaves per garden in Div. I) Division: I - Cut Leaf II - Containers III - Troughs IV - Education VI - Artistic No. of Entries: _____
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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)

<b>DINNER OPTIONS</b>	Friday: Beef _____ Tilapia _____ Saturday: Pork & Sauerkraut _____ Chicken Paprika _____ Both Nights: Veg. _____ Gl. Free _____
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<b>Full Registration</b>	\$175 _____
<i>(postmarked before May 23)</i>	
<b>Late Registration</b>	\$200 _____
<i>(postmarked May 23 or after)</i>	
<b>Tour of Amana Colonies (June 11)</b>	\$55 _____
includes lunch at Ox Yoke Inn	
<b>Dinner at Czech Museum (June 12)</b>	\$45 _____
<b>Garden Tour Bus</b>	\$55 _____
first 50 to sign up, box lunch on Friday	
<b>Meals Only Registration</b>	\$125 _____
<b>Credit Card Fee</b>	\$10 _____
<b>Total - payable in US funds</b>	\$ _____

For a complete description of the registration options, full schedule and latest updates, please refer to [HarshbargerHostaSociety.org](http://HarshbargerHostaSociety.org)

Send registration and check payable to AHS 2014 Convention to:

**Diann Pavelka**  
 600 Main St.  
 Lisbon, IA 52253

**All convention registrants assume all responsibility for liability.**

If paying by credit card:  
 Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Am Ex \_\_\_\_\_ Disc \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Digit Code on Back: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cedar Rapids Marriott**  
 1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
[cwp.marriot.com/cidmc/americanhostasociety](http://cwp.marriot.com/cidmc/americanhostasociety)  
 Convention Rates of \$114.00 - reserve by May 27th  
 Make reservations by calling 1-800-396-2153  
 and mentioning 'Hosta Convention'.

# FIRST LOOK 2014

Save the dates July 11-13, 2014 to be a part of a very special First Look, where history and the future will combine as never before! We are returning to the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, site of the 2011 AHS Convention and First Look 11, in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Region One's Sport and Seedling Competition will be held on Saturday, July 12. Gardeners and hybridizers are invited to bring their new and unique seedlings and sports to be judged by fellow attendees and gardeners as well as AHS accredited judges. Four major prizes will be awarded: the Best Seedling and the Best Sport as determined by the judges, and the Best Seedling and the Best Sport as determined by the attendees. There will also be fun contests, vendors, judges clinics, hospitality and lots of hosta fun!

To add to a special evening at the awards banquet, Region One will be officially naming our lifetime achievement award for a person who was only recently discovered to be the greatest hybridizer of all time. Florence Shaw is the person who created many of the plants once thought to be Aden's. Her granddaughter will be on hand to receive it in her honor.

This year we are thrilled to welcome Mark Zilis as the Keynote Speaker during the Banquet on Saturday evening. His talk is entitled "Historical Figures of the Hosta World". Mark will also have his new book available or will sign your copy.

On Sunday, our open garden tours include the Birchwood Estate, in Weston, where Florence had her garden, her collection of rare plants and did her groundbreaking work on hybridizing hostas.

Information and registration forms can be found at :

[www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HomeFrame.htm](http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HomeFrame.htm)



Winner of FL2013 Attendee: Best Seedling  
**Chick Wasitis Seedling H. 'Long Tall Sally'**



Winner FL2013 Best Sport Attendees & Judges  
**John O'Brien Sport H. 'Snow Squall'**



Winner of FL2013 Judges Best Seedling  
**Kathie Sisson Seedling H. 'Billfold'**



# Vote for your favorite hostas!

## The American Hosta Society Popularity Poll 2013

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

### Favorite Hostas

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

### Favorite Minis

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

### Hosta Journal Ideas

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

#### **Include your:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***“Vote early, vote often.”***

***–Bob Olson***

#### **Print and Mail to:**

**Bob Olson,**

**AHS Popularity Poll**

**2840 Glenhurst St. Louis Park MN**

**55416**

#### **OR E-Mail:**

[TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com](mailto:TheHostaJournal@hotmail.com)

#### **OR VOTE ONLINE:**

[www.hosta.org](http://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.