

The  
**HOSTA**  
SOCIETY



# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013





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

## Presidents Message

This summer has been an active one in the American Hosta Society. Each of your new board and continuing members has been busily working upon their respective ongoing responsibilities as well as several exciting initiatives.

Marcia Sully, Recording Secretary, New York, transitioned from an interim position into her first full term. Minutes and reports from the June board and business meeting were posted in the members section of the AHS website near the end of July. The fall board meeting is scheduled for mid-October. Be sure to check the same location on the website for greater detail than what I share within the scope of this publication. We hope you will be as excited as what we are in our service to your society.

Two individuals, Mary Bardens, Newsletter Coordinator, and Judy Burns, Judges Records and Classification Chair, have moved on to pursue other demands of their time. Local newsletter editors and judges alike have benefited from both individual's diligent work that has been conducted behind the scenes for years. A hearty thanks goes out to both for their years of service.

Mary Arnberg, Massachusetts, moves into the role of Newsletter Coordinator.

Additionally, three individuals join the efforts within the area of Judges and Exhibitions. Donna Priester, Tennessee, accepted the role of Judges Records Chair. Kim Larsen, Minnesota, will chair the Classification List. Kathie Sisson,

Connecticut, rejoins the service ranks as Judges' Training Chair; her experience in training is unsurpassed and will undoubtedly maintain the high standard of judges' expertise.

The Genus Hosta group adds one new individual and is joined by a position from the Members Services area to facilitate communications during a new project. Roger Smith, Maryland, joins us as Education Chair. Our Public Relations Coordinator, Jeff Miller, Wisconsin, moves to this team. All are focusing upon information about hosta related items to be made available upon the website and elsewhere.

The society hit the jackpot within a single family from Michigan. Our VP Awards and Honors is joined by Libby Greanya as Awards Sponsorship Chair, a new position aimed at maintaining and finding sponsorship of current and future awards. Mike Greanya will be working with our Membership Secretary in another new role of Volunteer Coordinator.

Members Services has seen change and additions as well. Mary Arnberg has already been mentioned. Display Gardens has been divided into two positions. Phyllis Weidman, Missouri, has taken the board position of AHS Display Garden Chair focusing upon public gardens. Barbara Jones, Massachusetts, rejoins the board as Members' Gardens Chair aiming to maintain and expand upon the listing of gardens open to our traveling membership. Joy Collura, Wisconsin, has stepped into the new role of Web Resources that focuses upon maintaining updates to time sensitive data upon the web site and the speakers list, updating and expanding this list as a service to our local societies.

The Midwest Regional Director has witnessed change. Sally Stewart has moved on to different pursuits. A thank you is extended to Sally for her service and a welcome to Pat  
*(continued on next page)*

Gwidt, Wisconsin.

Judy Feltman, Alabama, our Treasurer, has been working tirelessly with the transition between treasurers. She has initiated the required audit. We hope to have that report for the fall board meeting.

The Executive VP continues to work diligently with next year's convention planners and has her focus set upon the following years.

The area of Publications is not to be left out of the news. Gerry Meyer, Minnesota, is our new *eNewsletter* Editor, taking over for Reldon Ramsey, Iowa, who built the *eNewsletter* into what it is now after its initial stages. However, Reldon's service is not complete. Reldon is appointed to the position of *Online Journal* Editor. As of the date of this publication *The Online Journal* is on track to go live on its annual launch date of Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 2013.

The overwhelmingly gracious acceptance of invitations to accept appointments from across the country has been exciting and foretells of positive things to come in the ensuing months. I encourage all members to look for postings of both the reports and minutes from this fall's board meeting upon the AHS website near the time of the *Online Journal* going live. Details of progress upon specific projects and initiatives are anticipated within those resources.

In service,  
*Don Dean*  
AHS President



## 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**

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### **Vice President Publications**

**[Barb Schroeder](#)**

### **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](#)**



**Cindy Tomashek**  
VP Conventions

Thanks to a scorching hot fire sale at the Milwaukee convention, we depleted most of the existing AHS logo wear and other merchandise (we have limited stock of AHS visors, a few polo shirts in small sizes, and travel mugs, plus a good supply of AHS pins). Chuck Zdeb did such an awesome job moving the inventory that I invited him to take on the role of Merchandising Chair. Luckily, he signed on, and we plan to launch a future survey to gauge member interest in AHS merchandise so we can tailor our next offerings to your wishes. More to come.

Thinking of Milwaukee, I just can't praise the good work of Tom Micheletti and Jack Barta enough. They negotiated good pricing for catering, dug up donors (and donated significantly themselves) for hotel and table decorations or other needs and generally kept a tight fiscal fist. They developed a budget around lower than usual attendance (due to skepticism over the "drive yourself" garden tours) and delivered a registration fee lower than...ever! Attendees were very pleased with the value this convention delivered, hands down. And it made an unexpected profit when registrations reached average attendance. They have truly broken the mold – proving that less can be more – and deserve all our thanks.

Conventions are very special gatherings of hosta friends and the next Hosta Journal contains a flyer for "Czech It Out", with details about the 2014 AHS Convention hosted by the Harshbarger Hosta Society in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Be sure to pencil the dates into your calendar (June 11-14, 2014). And we're all very excited to be returning to the Raleigh, North Carolina, area for the 2015 AHS Convention, thanks to the initiative of Bob and

Nancy Solberg, hosts. **But where are we going in 2016??** It is time for someone or some society to step up and get the ball rolling. A convention host 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 put together a great AHS Convention for 2016, so let's get started!

Conventionally yours,  
*Cindy Tomashek*  
AHS VP Conventions



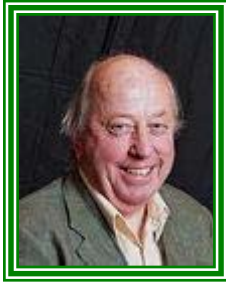
**Barbara Schroeder**  
VP Publications

Reldon Ramsey has moved from E-Newsletter Editor to Online Journal Editor and Gerry Meyer has agreed to take on the role of eNewsletter Editor.

The transition has been going well and the Online Journal will be out on Thanksgiving Day as before. Gerry has been with the AHS for many years and has been active with the web site and newsletter for his local society too. We welcome Gerry as Editor of this eNewsletter.

We have created a DVD of our current journals. 1969 through 2012. We are offering the DVD set (2 disks) for \$59.95 that includes shipping in the continental US. We also have partial sets of Journals from 1982 to 2012. Sets start with 47 and go down to 36, all different journals per set for \$1.00 per journal plus shipping. We still have some individual copies that we are also selling until they are gone. If you are interested in any hard copies please contact me.

*Barbara Schroeder*  
VP Publications



## **Mike Shadrack** **VP Awards**

I am delighted to report that the team that looks after the Awards and Honors of our wonderful organization has grown. The AHS makes many worthy awards annually and keeping track of them is difficult for my old brain.

Libby Greanya has agreed to take the newly created position of "Sponsored Awards Chair". Libby and I first met way back when she visited the gardens of England and I have twice visited the lovely garden that she and husband Mike maintain in Jackson, Michigan.

Libby writes, 'I was raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan to a non-gardening family. At the age of 12, my mother asked me to transplant ajuga in a barren strip between a sidewalk and the garage. The rock hard clay bent my trowel, but the ajuga lived! A gardener was born. After finishing undergrad at Abilene Christian College in Texas and almost a decade of education in Ann Arbor at University of Michigan Medical School and subsequent residency in Diagnostic Radiology (Go Blue!), it was time to move to Jackson, Michigan, get a real job and start a family.

At age 30, during a prenatal office visit, my obstetrician told me he would not continue to care for me unless I took two of his cast-off hybridizing seedling flats-all from H. 'Sieboldiana Elegans'. Dutifully following my OBs advice, a very pregnant hosta gardener was born. Thank you Dr. Gil Jones for both gifts! Add in mentoring from Clarence Owens and Dr. Jim Wilkins and then crossing paths with Dr. Herb Benedict - how lucky can you get?

I am a member of the AHS, MHS, Great Lakes Region and have attended many national conventions and Hosta Colleges. Many of the

hosta in the garden came from MHS and AHS auctions and plant sales in the mid 1980's-early 1990's and were purchased long before tissue culture. (A lot of money was spent on "bad sports" before anyone knew better.) We were fortunate to have our garden selected as a tour garden for the AHS National Convention tours in both 1999 and 2009. Being selected as a host garden for the Convention was a great honor and one that will always be remembered. The garden has matured now but it is continually evolving. While hosta remain the focal point, many exotic and rare plants are now part of the landscape including a rock garden with alpine plants. (I am also Secretary of the Great Lakes North American Rock Garden Society chapter). The mini hosta rock garden was included in "The Book of Little Hostas" by Kathy Shadrack.'

Libby Greanya will liaise with all those Societies and Individuals who have generously agreed to sponsor our awards. She will find new sponsors as sponsorship agreements expire and she will gently remind folks to have awards available when required. In addition Libby will organize, source, receive and distribute those garden award plaques that we present each year to those who offer their gardens as Tour Gardens during National Conventions.

"Treat crowds upon treat". I have even more help. Paula Lehtola of Bridgewater, Massachusetts has offered to research the archives and establish those Board members and others who should have been presented with an American Hosta Society service pin. Once those worthy folks have been identified we will think of a nice way to ensure that they all receive the award.

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## Certificates of Appreciation and the Presidents' Wall

Many people have asked when the next batch of names local hosta society members who have been awarded certificates will be placed on the web site. After much debate we decided early on that we would not post recipients' names on the wall until January 1st of the following year. This is because many clubs like to surprise recipients with the award at local meetings during the summer and fall and posting the names on the web site earlier might ruin the surprise.

## The Alex J Summers and the Eunice Fisher Awards

The Alex J Summers Award and the Eunice Fisher Hybridizer Award are the two highest awards that the AHS makes and they honor very special members who have contributed much to the Society and the Genus Hosta.

Nominations are sought from the membership and these nominations are then placed before a small independent committee. After their deliberations a worthy member is selected to receive each of the awards that are then presented at the National Convention.

This Year the Alex J Summers Distinguished Service Award was made to Tom Micheletti and the Eunice Fisher Hybridizer Award was made to Olga Petryszyn.

Full details of the awards, the acceptance speeches and their selected hostas will be published in the next On Line Journal where you will also find the nomination forms for the 2014 Awards.

These are very important awards and considered nominations will be much appreciated.

Finally, if any member has any query concerning our awards and honors systems or who would like to make any suggestions as to how we might improve, please do not hesitate

to contact me personally or via the AHS website.

*Mike Shadrack*

VP Awards





**Gregg Peterson**  
**VP of Judging and Exhibitions**

As you walk through your garden beds or even do some late season cleanup work this fall, I invite you to carry a notebook and pen with you. Make a list of those hosta varieties in your garden that just looked magnificent this past growing season! In other words, list those cultivars that simply “wowed” you this year, including both older, well known varieties along with any newer varieties that finally reached maturity, both in terms of clump size and leaf shape and coloring.

Add to this list any plants that were pointed out to you or asked about by visitors to your garden this summer. Whether it was a friend, neighbor or relative; whether they were new to hosta growing or experienced hosta collectors; stop to think about and capture on paper what hosta varieties garnered their attention and interest as they toured your garden.

Finally, if you dab a little pollen or if you are out there at the crack of dawn muscling out the natural pollinators, add to your list any seedlings or sports that were truly distinctive in their appearance and growth in your beds. If someone else noted your plant, all the better; and if another hybridizer noted your plant, by all means make sure it is added to your list!! In many cases, this means writing down an undecipherable combination of letters and numbers, but make sure it ends up on your list.

Once you have compiled your list, put it in a safe place to get it through the winter. Don't put it with the birthday or Christmas gifts you bought a year ago, as you probably won't remember where you put those gifts and your list gets lost with them. Put it in a place where

you will remember it sometime around April 15<sup>th</sup>, like with your tax records and receipts!! By that time, you'll be sick of winter and looking forward to the emergence of your hosta.

Why did I ask you to make the list? That list provides a good beginning of hosta to consider when selecting leaves for next summers' leaf show. If it impressed you and all of the visitors to your garden, it stands a good chance to impress a panel of judges at a local, regional or even national hosta leaf show. It also provides a good example of what the genus *Hosta* represents, which is one of the missions that our local, regional and national hosta societies embrace.

So make your list, “overwinter” it in a safe place and let's compare how many hosta from those lists we enter next summer.

Need help with organizing and putting on a hosta leaf show? Contact me and we'll put you in touch with plenty of resources to help you stage a local, regional or even national show.

*Gregg Peterson*  
VP of Judging and Exhibitions



*Another Hosta Lover...who knew!*



**Cindy Deutekom**  
**VP Genus Hosta Report**

**HVX Research Update**

Several key points came out of the completed 2-year study at the University of Minnesota with Dr. Ben Lockhart.

- HVX can be transmitted from infected to healthy hostas by injury resulting from mechanical contact with cutting tools or fingers. Mechanical transmission of HVX on tools or fingers occurs at a very low frequency.
- This and any other mode of HVX transmission is most likely to occur in the spring when plants emerge from dormancy.
- HVX transmission may take up to 2-3 years to manifest itself as a recognizable disease.

**Nematode Research**

The project is on track! Dr. Grewal has accepted a new position as Professor and Head, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee (UTK) in Knoxville in June. The project has moved from Ohio State University with Dr. Grewal. The necessary matching funds to carry out the research have been acquired by Dr. Grewal. A new Agreement with UTK is in the process of being signed. There has been no delay in the project due to the changes!

You can support this research project by making a donation. See the AHS website <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Nematodes.html> for more information.

Some very exciting first results have just come in from Dr. Grewal.

Objective 1 Test Results: In the early spring, soils, leaves, roots and overwintering hosta crowns were sampled to check for the overwintering foliar nematodes, especially for the overwintering nematode eggs. The nematodes were found in the soil, the leaves, and the crowns (buds) but not in the roots. Nematode eggs were not found in the soil, but observations suggest that eggs may overwinter in the leaves and buds. This observation will be repeated next year to confirm the results.

Objective 2: A pot experiment shows that if the pots of healthy hosta plants are placed close to the pots with the infested plants, the healthy hosta developed nematode infection symptoms even if they were from a different hosta cultivar. In another pot experiment to check whether the healthy hosta can be infested by the foliar nematodes present in the soil, it was observed that there is a high percentage of healthy hostas that became infested. These experiments provide evidence that healthy hosta plants planted in the nematode infested solid or even close to another infested plant, when there is no direct contact with the soil, can get infested by nematodes.

**And this is the exciting part!**

Out of the tested chemicals, several (ZeroTol, Bifenthrin, G-Cyhalothrin, Azamax, Clorox, Sodium dichloroisocyanurate, Grapefruit Seed Extract, Ammonia, and Neem oil) produced relatively high nematode mortality (50 to 100% at high concentrations and 30-40% at low concentrations). Of these tested chemicals, several readily available to every gardener, (Clorox and Ammonia) had a 100% mortality rate! The entire experiment will be repeated for comparative data analysis. More results from testing are expected early spring.

*Cindy Deutekom*  
VP Genus Hosta





**Sandie Markland**  
**AHS Membership**  
**Secretary**

Time seems to fly more quickly with each passing year.

**YES, IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN!**

If there is a "13" after your name on the mailing sheet which accompanied the most recent *Hosta Journal*, then it's time to renew -- you wouldn't want to miss any of the fun, would you?! I know this might be surprising (and possibly somewhat distressing) news to those who joined for just a single year immediately prior to the 2013 membership cut-off date in mid-August and I'm sorry for that ... but, remember, your membership was backdated to 01-01-13!

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 (which will arrive shortly if it hasn't already) is always accompanied by a renewal form. It is important to renew in a timely manner in order to avoid the \$5.00 late fee which **MUST** be applied to all renewals mailed or entered online after January 15 of each calendar year --- mailing that first issue of the year individually to late renewals is a costly process!

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](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!**

*Sandie Markland*  
**AHS Membership Secretary**



*Waiting for clearance to land*



**Bob Olson**  
Editor, *The Hosta Journal*.

The next issue of the *Journal* is already at the printer. You should get it in two weeks or so,

depending on the the Postal Service in your area. In this edition is the Popularity Poll for 2012. The Popularity Poll is the most frequently requested item in the *Journal*—requested by garden groups here and abroad as well as nurseries and other garden magazines as well as individual members.

It is one of the things the AHS does better than anyone else. And the reason it is so respected is the AHS Popularity Poll gives a good measurement of what discerning hosta collectors consider the most garden worthy plants. With the thousands of cultivars available you can see how this can be immensely helpful to those new to hostas and to nurseries wishing to supply the best-of-the-best to their clientele.

We need your help to maintain this valuable resource at its current high level of excellence.

Please send me your favorite hostas —meaning the ones you liked best this past year. The ballot has been shortened to just 10 hostas —so it should just take you a few minutes to complete. Do it today if you possibly can. **Attached is a form you can use as a guide**—you can mail the form to me by US postal service, e-mail a list of your 10 favorite hostas to me directly—or you can go to the AHS website and vote on line. It's easy.

Thanks for your help.

*Bob Olson*  
Editor, *The Hosta Journal*.



**Rob Mortko**  
VP Member Services

Since the summer board meeting we have assembled essentially a completely new team in

Member Services. And yet the new team is long on relevant experience, expertise and energy. We opted to split the “Display Gardens” position with Phyllis Weidman accepting the role for AHS Display Gardens and Barbara Jones accepting the role for AHS Member Gardens. Due to family health issues Mary Bardens expressed her desire to complete her tenure as Newsletter Editor Coordinator. Mary has faithfully served in this capacity for the last 4+ years and deserves a big round of applause for her efforts. Mary Arnberg has accepted the Newsletter Editor Coordinator position.

A new position of Web Resources has been established to help ensure information remains up to date on the AHS website. Joy Collura has accepted this position. The constant is Betty Davis who continues to serve as Website Inquiry Liaison in handling and disseminating questions that are submitted through the AHS website.

A new AHS membership option is 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. For those of you who receive this eNewsletter but are not yet AHS members, please give this option some consideration. It is a great way to give AHS membership a trial at a greatly reduced rate. Try it, I bet you like it!!!

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The list of AHS Display Gardens has been updated on the AHS website. The most recent AHS Display Garden addition is the Springfield Botanical Center in Springfield, MO. The list of Member Gardens has also been updated on the AHS website. The Member Gardens list is posted on the "Members Only" portion of the AHS website and is just one benefit of membership.

A huge thank you goes to AHS member Lynn Nehring who took on this project of updating both the AHS Display Garden and Member Gardens list. Lynn made countless phone calls and sent numerous emails in the process. Our current goal is to significantly increase the number of Member Gardens listed in the very near future.

*Rob Mortko*  
VP Member Services

### **"eMembership"**

**Tired of all the paper filling up your mailbox and taking up room on your desk (or kitchen table)? Why not try our new eMembership option? This option is available beginning in 2014 --- in addition to the Online Journal, you will now be able to enjoy the other two issues online! We also have a new 5 Year Membership option for those who prefer to renew for longer terms!**

## **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.

Watch for more information on the AHS convention website:  
<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Conventions.html> .

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

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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)

***“Vote early, vote often.”***

*–Bob Olson*

# 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.