

Prairie Hosta Herald

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

Promoting knowledge and interest in Hostas, fostering the development of new and improved Hosta varieties and encouraging cultivation and usefulness of Hostas in landscapes.

IPHS March Meeting

IPHS Meeting – 10:00 AM - March 24, 2012

Location - U of I Extension auditorium on Country Fair Drive between Bradley Ave and University Ave...

Program – How to Photograph Plants, Gardens and More – By Heather Miller, local photographer and avid gardener.

Heather will discuss photo composition to help you generate creative shots, go over proper lighting techniques in varying situations, cameras and camera equipment options, and uses for your photos. Please feel free to visit Heather's website to take a tour of beautiful plants and scenery of Central Illinois in the middle of the winter! www.hmiller.smugmug.com

IPHS Membership

Single membership is \$10 per year,
Family membership is \$15 per year.

Monthly meeting, March to October

Contact:

Susan Krumm, 508 James Street,
Champaign, IL 61821

Check out our Web Site:

[http://
www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com](http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com)

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Remarks by Siska

Could this winter be any more different than last year's? While some of us are probably poised to jump into the garden with both feet, others are probably waiting for the other shoe to drop. One thing I hope you all will do is to jump headlong into the 2012 IPHS program schedule.

Carolyn Purcell, our Vice President for Programs, has put together a nicely varied selection of topics for us to enjoy and I hope we can show our appreciation by having large turnouts at the meetings. Our club has accomplished a great deal over the last few years

due to the efforts of all of our members. I want to encourage you all to keep it up and be willing to help if officers or committee chairs call on you to help. The commitments are usually of short duration and I can tell you from experience that they are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to send your membership renewals in to Susan Krumm if you haven't already done so.

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Nature note: I have seen a beautiful fox strolling through my back yard the past couple weeks. The last time he (or she) had his breakfast between his teeth. Foxes 1 Rabbits 0.

Celebrate the spring equinox and come to our first meeting on March 24th to hear Heather Miller talk about garden photography. See you there.

Siska

Officers and Committees

Officers for 2012

President—Siska Kallio

1st Vice President—Programs—Carolyn Purcell

2nd Vice President—Membership—Susan Krumm

Secretary—Nancy Gill

Past President—Susan Weber

Board Member at Large—Nancy Voss

Committee Chairs

Allerton Hosta Garden— Karen Meyer

U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber and Deb Guardia

Audit—Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality—Barb Socha and Susan Weber

Newsletter—Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic—Susan Weber

Plant Raffle—Liza Weber

Annual Plant Sale—Mike Weber & Susan Krumm

Publicity— Barb Schroeder

Annual Trip—Rick Schroeder



Spring is coming (the way this winter has been it may have arrived in January), the plant and seed catalogs are in your hands and H' Dance With Me' is one you might want to add to your collection. We did last year and it looks like it will be a standout in the garden.

Membership Renewal

The 2012 membership renewal form was sent to you via email or snail mail last fall. Please complete and return to Susan Krumm as soon as possible. You may bring the completed form and your check to the March meeting if you wish.

We look forward to your membership in 2012 and another great year for IPHS.

Remember to update your membership form with your email address. All newsletters are sent as a PDF file via email so you receive a full color issue. For those that do not have email, or do not want the society to have your address, your newsletter will be sent in black and white via snail mail.

Send your renewal to:
Susan Krumm
508 S. James St
Champaign, IL 61821

Future Meetings

March 24 – U of I Extension Office, Country Fair Drive, 10:00 AM. “Garden Photography” by Heather Miller

April 28 – Country Arbors Nursery, East Windsor Rd, Urbana - 1:00 PM—Shane Cultra our speaker.

May 12 – Annual IPHS Hosta Plant Sale – Lincoln Square Village in Urbana – 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

May 18 & 19 – The Illini 5 plant sale at the Schroeder’s home, 1819 Coventry Drive. Friday 3:00 to 7:00, Saturday 8:00 to 1:00.

May 26 – Location TBA - IPHS Annual Potluck Cynthia Wilhote of Soules Garden in Indianapolis - “Shade Anything but Hostas”.

June 9 – Annual IPHS Bus Trip. One-day trip to Peoria area to visit four gardens, then up to Hornbaker’s for plant buying—see article this issue.

June 13-16 – the 2012 AHS Convention in Nashville, TN.

June 23 – Champaign-Urbana Master Gardeners Garden Walk.

June 24 – Bill & Bev Cotter garden, 3003 Valley Brook, Champaign, Program TBA.

July 10 – Rick & Barb Schroeder’s garden, 1819 Coventry Drive, Champaign – “Hosta Hybridizing” by Doug Beilstein, President of AHS

July 12-14 – The 2012 Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Rochester, MN.

August 25 – Location TBA. Program on grasses by Barkley Farms.

September 20 – Idea Garden, South Lincoln Ave - “Tropical’s” by Mary Morris and Bob Skully

October 28— Annual dinner at Round Barn Center – “Wintering Over Hosta Pots” by Rick Schroeder.

IPHS Officers for 2012



Left to right, President - Siska Kallio, Treasurer - Jamie Isaacs, VP Programs - Carolyn Purcell, VP Membership - Susan Krumm and Secretary - Nancy Gill. Member at Large Nancy Voss not available.

Welcome to IPHS

We welcome the following new members to IPHS:

Ava Kinder, 605 W. Vermilion St., Catlin

Tony Soskin, 2702 Salisbury Ct, Champaign

Irina Stewart, 76 Greencroft Dr, Champaign

Mel Voss (Nancy) 306 S. Prospect Ave, Champaign

Bryan Johns, 1422 Riverbend Lane, White Heath, IL

For new members, when you attend your first meeting check with Susan Krumm to pick up your “friendship” hosta.

From Sandy Mason—UI Extension:

You know you are a serious gardener when:

- While you’re waiting in the doctor’s office you find yourself removing dead leaves from the houseplants (Diana Thoma).
- You would rather share your toothbrush than your hand pruners (Mary Morris).

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

by Bob Solberg,

Editor: I ran this item a few years ago and thought it would help as a reminder for many and information for our new members - Rick

Spring (Foliage emergence begins): March-April-early May

As the ground warms under spring's ever increasing light intensities, the dormant buds of the hostas begin to swell and break through the mulch, looking like bullets coming out of the ground. The small bud scales that protect the true leaves open and recurve allowing a cigar-shaped flush of usually three to four leaves to emerge well above the ground. Soil temperature and moisture seem to effect the timing of the emergence of hostas the most. In very dry winters the emergence of hostas will be delayed unless the garden is irrigated. As the new hosta leaves expand, ample water is also needed for them to gain maximum size.

Labeling: Check for lost labels and replace as needed.

Light: Full sun, moderate intensity. Usually no shading necessary.

Nutrients: Apply slow release fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote, organic fertilizers) or 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around clumps as the hostas emerge. If you only use a liquid fertilizer, then apply weekly beginning as the first leaves start to unfurl.

Pests: Begin slug control before hosta leaves emerge. The slugs will be active on warm nights before the hostas will. Try to limit their populations before they hide in the hosta foliage. If early attacks by deer are a problem, spray a repellent. Little is needed at this time but it may need to be repeated every 10 days as the hostas enlarge. Stay on vole patrol.

Protection: Finish your spring clean-up of fallen branches, old hosta foliage and scapes. Last chance to mulch. Pull mulch away from emerging hosta shoots to reduce the risk of petiole rot, especially if

hardwood bark is used as mulch. Protect from late freezes with frost cloth, nursery pots, boxes, light-weight bed sheets or newspaper. Hostas with unfurled leaves can be protected by covering with mulch.

Propagation: Hostas may be divided in half or quarters as they begin to emerge. Be prepared to provide them with extra water and care as they will have oversized leaves for their recently reduced root system. New roots will not begin forming until the first sets of new leaves are almost fully expanded, several weeks after division. Save drastic division for late summer

Water: Keep the soil evenly moist. Fresh hostas are mostly water, make sure plenty is available as they expand. Beautiful spring days with bright light, low humidity and brisk winds dehydrate new hosta leaves quickly, do not be afraid to irrigate generously.

Fun! This is the best hosta season of the year! Go out several times a day and watch your hostas spring from the earth. You can almost see them grow! Count the number of new shoots and calculate how much your hosta investment has increased. A one division hosta purchased for \$25 last fall, with its three new shoots, has now tripled in value to \$75. Drag you neighbors over to see your hostas do their magic act. This is the time of year when everything is right in the hosta world. Go to a local hosta meeting.

Sandy has more:

- On vacation your car is programmed to arrive at every garden center and botanic garden along the way. (Mary Ann Metz)
- You never had dinner before sunset during the summer (Whit and Cathy Daily)

Our IPHS Friends—be sure to visit them



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Special this month—the first shipment of trees arrives from Baileys, a local Illinois vendor. Look for Bottle Brush Buckeye, American Yellow Wood and black Tupelo to name a few.

Additional Activities and Conventions

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society Annual Bus Trip – Saturday, June 11 to Peoria.

The 2012 AHS Convention sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, Nashville, TN – June 13-16, 2012

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention sponsored by the Shades of Green Hosta Society, Rochester, MN – July 11-14, 2012.

Check these out and plan to attend. You will meet some wonderful gardeners and see some outstanding gardens. In addition, you might buy a hosta for your own garden.

Hostaholism

By R.A. Smith

Twelve Stages Described (in one man's opinion)

It appears to me that there are three general categories of dedicated hosta enthusiasts that can be identified upon visiting their garden. Most are sane people with well adjusted outlooks who employ the hosta as a major part of the overall landscape design. In these gardens, the serious hosta connoisseur will have perfectly grown hostas that fully complement the shade garden. Mass plantings of edger hostas will be of all the same size and color setting off a garden bed with well executed landscape design. Some rare specimen plants will be beacons for visitors, a large yellow here, and a giant originator stock hosta over there. These are the gardens that we all love to visit.

Then there's the hosta collector, which may manifest in theme plants of hostas. You can pick these out when you see monoculture plantings with common names, moon gardens, a collection of Van Wade's Native American series, many sports of a common type, and for the more dedicated, all the

available tardiflorias (TF-1 to n) planted in numerical sequence – that's a difficult task with the best of contacts. Lastly, there is the over the top hosta enthusiasts (addict if you will) that has either breezed through or right past these two sane categories—in these gardens, the plots will contain incomprehensible alphanumeric labels along with named plants with “NR” and “OS” following them – few of which you can find in the “Hostapedia” tome. You'll see plants and wonder to yourself, this must have been a missed cull along with 64 plants of the same look and size growing in wind rows cooking under the mid-day sun.

These gardens can be referred to as the Eagle Nebula of the hosta world, where new stars are born but they can also be the pitfall of many a hobbyist that didn't see the warning signs of a slippery slope—this story attempts to better describe this latter stage of hosta addiction – let's look behind Monty's curtain # 3.

The Twelve Stages of Hosta Addiction:

1. Purchase an H. 'Undulata' from the local box store in order to cover a shady garden spot under a tree – toss the tag—call it the green and white one. This is how it all gets started and most sensible gardeners stop here. If it grows well and other mysterious forces come into play, a select few progress to step two.

2. Buy a couple more hostas from the local nursery based on the cute names. Plant two H. 'Blue Angel' right next to H. 'Blue Cadet' since they look like each other at this stage of growth. All tags are tossed out with the recyclables along with the pots. Notice how nice two of them seem to be growing.

3. Discover that there are more than three hosta types and achieve Zen status when a large yellow is found. Mistake

H. 'Sagae' for the “green and white one” already in the garden so pass it by at the nursery. Start to

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worry that the little blue one (H. 'Blue Cadet') is being swallowed up by its overgrown neighbors.

4. Find the Hosta Library and become instantly overwhelmed with all the different cultivars. Pick out the rarest of the group and decide that's exactly the one in the garden without a tag – make a quick label and mark it. Figure out that voles and deer like after dinner hosta snacks. Start to tire of the evening watering routine on the hot summer days.

5. Start buying all the different hosta plants at the local nursery -- keeping the tags now – plant them in full sun as well as shade. Find that there's actually a book or two dedicated to hostas and buy them from the on-line book store (who then tells you about all the other related publications). Notice that some hostas produce seeds but alas, they go into the compost bin when the squirrels are done munching them. Pictures of the "No Tag" plants are offered up for identification to the experts. You take pictures of the deer that are visiting the garden, how nice. You manage the deer and vole damaged the best you can and replace plants they destroy each year.

At this point, if the majority of below symptoms apply, you may be sliding into the abyss--be warned, hosta addiction can be a source of self-actualization and new friendships although at the same time, it will also be costly in time, garden space, and perhaps sanity.

6. Join the local and regional hosta society followed by a membership to the AHS for the great tri-annual journal. Mail Order specialty catalogues are "bookmarked" on your Internet browser. Long wish lists start with the header "Need List." You buy your third hosta book and start seeking out all the others. You bid on the out of print Zilis e-bay 1991 signed publication.

Out-of-state garden visits become part of your annual routine to and from other destinations. Plant pictures are posted routinely onto the various web

forums. You receive a mail order nursery gift certificate from the dear spouse who believes your new found hobby is wonderful. New plants arrive weekly in the spring from the winter's "downtime." You're thinking about taking out a bounty on the local deer population but install new fencing and use organic sprays instead.

7. The hosta garden surpasses 250 named cultivars. A few special gift plants are well placed as a special joy as a reminder to a great event or person – this is good. Digging up half the lawn or trying to tame a 45 degree sloping back yard may be over the top but you do it anyway. The spouse is wondering when it'll stop and starts tossing out the new catalogues when they arrive. AHS National Convention attendance is planned and you seek out Mark, Mike, and George for book signing opportunities. New stainless steel or plastic plant markers start to replace all the makeshift plant tags of past. Metal mesh cages are placed in the ground around the roots of the special plants. A bang gun is heard going off in the evening by the neighbors.

8. "You mean the seeds can be grown" is a question that can put one over the edge. In this stage of addiction, stalker madness sets in. On line auctions become your after dark bane of existence (luckily, you're not in the East Coast time zone). You join the seed grower's forum and make a plant growing shelf in the basement. The neighbors call the Sheriff due to the strange glow coming from the basement windows 24-hour-a-day. You start the slow process to convince the spouse that an automatic sprinkler system in the yard would mean more dinner outings in the summer instead of watering chores. You keep 500 greenies and a few variegated seedlings the first year with no room in the existing garden plots to grow them. The spouse is concerned and seeks outside help for your addiction. You raid the back rooms at the local nursery for tossed plastic pots to use for the seedlings as they gain size. You start to dream up

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hosta names for “when the time is right” to register your first plant. You ask the spouse to help dig up the remaining lawn for another “little hosta garden.”

9. Sport fishing trips become the norm when visiting a nursery. If a major wholesaler is nearby, you’re on first name basis with the plant manager. Seeds are no longer bought but traded or sold to the poor souls slipping in at stage 8. The winter months are spent tending the seedlings and vacations are cancelled so that the little ones don’t dry out. Fungal gnats become well known household pests. There’s an anonymous bounty on the local buck that invades your garden at night.

10. The seedlings grown are as good as anything on the market is now a common thought at this stage. Garden names have been assigned. You’ve actually read all the way through “The Genus Hosta” tome and have dog-eared the section on plant breeding. A new macro lens may be purchased at this stage in order to take better seedling pictures—a sure sign you’re going in deep. Many hostas have been dug up and replanted with root and vole barriers. Your new dog is doing a good job keeping the deer in check but the bang gun is still near the door.

11. You register your first plant and share OS pieces with your hosta friends – the friendship plant concept now becomes most evident. Off-hand discussions with your hosta friends may include phrases as “So, do you believe inhibitor genes caused that trait to appear?” or “There’s no doubt in my mind that this is a tetraploid – look at that substance” followed shortly by “Did you see that new splashed plant in the vending area and the price? I have a whole batch of seedlings better than that thing.” You have cages around your best breeders to keep the rabbits, deer, and squirrels away during pollination season. A small backyard greenhouse is looking like something you must have.

12. Your seed growing knowledge is sought by others at this stage of addiction. Other possible symptom to watch for: you are asked to write articles for the journal documenting your hybridizing experiences, success and pitfalls along the way. You dream that you’ll become rich and famous in the hosta world (well, maybe not rich as you’ve probably spent \$10,325 at this time and ruined your back digging up the lawn all to sell a single plant for \$400). With help, you may recover from the insanity and revert back to Step 7 although the number of hostas hover around 600 by now. If there’s any lawn left, you concede that the kids and dog need some space to play. The automatic sprinklers are doing a nice job keeping everything green.

“Made in the Shade”

Larry Tucker’s *Made in the Shade* book is back by popular demand! This second edition of his adventures and advice, wit and wisdom will help you nurture plants, recognize yourself and maintain your sanity. It’s brimming with 24 more chapters, hosta tips, color covers and pictures. Revenue again is destined for the Memphis Botanic Garden’s Hosta Trail, an American Hosta Society National Display Garden. Here’s what a few of your hosta friends are saying:

“Good garden writers have a special talent, often combining rich vocabulary with wit and solid information. Larry shows he knows hostas and gardening, has a passion for life and a great marriage. Read this smorgasbord one bite at a time or swallow it whole — after the gardening is done!”

—Mary Arnberg, Bridgewater, MA, New England Hosta Society

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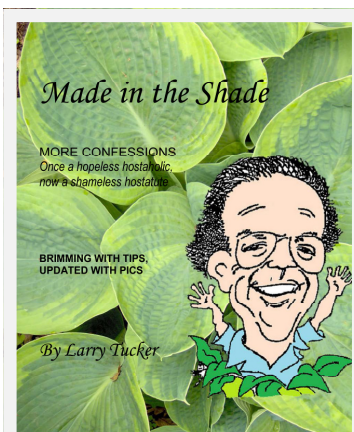
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“It doesn’t matter if you have never seen a farm or you were raised in Florida, Larry’s verbal picture of life with hostas and Shari (his wife of two score and more) comes alive in humorous anecdotes. Grab a cup of coffee or a martini, ease back in your La-Z-Boy and prepare for his hilarious second-edition *Made in the Shade*.”

—Doug Beilstein, Mansfield, OH, American Hosta Society President

“*Made in the Shade* could be titled *Made You Smile*. It is a must-have book for addicted hosta collectors, though it will appeal to anyone who gardens or has a passion for plants. Filled with anecdotes and Tuckerisms, *Made in the Shade* is a great companion for a rainy day when you need a smile.”

—Jan Everson, Troy, MI, Michigan Hosta Society



“Larry’s book is as entertaining as it is educational. His confessions about life’s lessons in the hosta garden generate many a laugh for readers. Our club was fortunate to buy the last copies of his first edition. I highly recommend this second edition.”

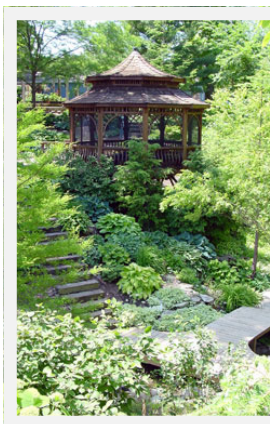
—Ray Rodgers, Hanna City, IL, Central Illinois Hosta Society

“Larry’s book can be purchased at Mid-South Hosta Society activities for \$15 or by mail for \$18. Make checks payable to Mid-South Hosta Society (with notation *Made in the Shade*) and send orders to Larry Tucker, 2927 Geoffrey Drive, Southaven, MS 38672. Hosta la vista!

SPECIAL NOTE - Larry and his wife, on their way to Chicago to see their daughter, will be our guests for the April meeting and he will have copies of his book with him for sale—Rick & Barb

IPHS 8th Annual Bus Trip

Hopefully you noted the planned Peoria area bus trip scheduled for Saturday, June 9. This year we will be visiting four member gardens of the Central Illinois Hosta Society. These are four new gardens that we have not visited previously and their owners have graciously opened the gardens for us and the Northern Illinois Hosta Society that will be following behind us. Two of the gardens on the east side of the Illinois River and two are on the north side of Peoria.



After visiting the last garden we will head to your favorite hosta nursery, Hornbaker’s. If you have not been there before this is a real treat. Before hitting the sale area you need to check out the display garden and pick out your favorite hosta. Hornbaker’s has a vast selection of some 800 hosta, hundreds of perennials, daylilies, iris, trees and shrubs and garden art.

This weekend is their “Hosta Weekend” with specials on many of the plants in stock. You will have about 2 hours to shop and load up the bus for the trip home. The reservation form will be available at the March meeting and sent out the first of April to those that did not attend. A special this year for those that register is an IPHS gift hosta from Q&Z Nursery. We will have two different, newly registered, hostas that will not be offered in the market until later this year. Remember, the first 50 to signup get on the bus and get one (The over 50 may have to ride on top).

Rick



Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

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We are on the Web at:
[http://
www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com](http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com)

Spring is coming—Really!

Spring brings the New Look of the Prairie Hosta Herald

Since 2005 I have been preparing the Prairie Hosta Herald in the software PageMaker. This was a result of working on a railroad newsletter for the last 30+ years and working with something comfortable. That newsletter was started in the days of stencils on a portable typewriter and a mimeograph machine to print it (you younger member have probably never heard of this). The process was time consuming, typing mistakes were made and covered with correction fluid and the printing process was messy.

Fast-forward some 20+ years and how we have changed. The word processor and software of today make the process so easy (we don't have to worry about spelling anymore). For the last couple of years I have wanted to make some changes. This issue is the first in a new format using Microsoft Publisher. Over time I plan to add more color (so be sure to get your email address to Susan Krumm) and send your photos to me. As always, I need stories, so type up something in an email and send to me – the members love to hear from you.

I hope you like the changes (by the way, the colors are "Wildflower") - Rick