

Prairie Hosta Herald

March 2011 Volume 8 Number 1

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 Spring Meeting, March 19, 2011 - Tony Noel Center
at Parkland College - 9:00 AM*

'Best Conifer Gardens of England'

Presented by Gary & Deb Guardia

Each year plant enthusiasts travel to England from all over the world to experience the grandeur and history of English horticulture, and to learn from distinguished English horticulturalists. Visitors are often amazed by the background, diversity and, in some cases, the age of plant material, from all over the world, which they find throughout large public gardens, small private collections, royal landscapes, arboretums, grand flower shows, specialty nurseries and so much more. The English are very serious and devoted gardeners. In July 2010, Gary and Deb Guardia experienced all of this and much more as travelers with the American Conifer Society International Tour to visit England's best conifer sites.

The 12-day ACS tour covered over 1,200 miles of English countryside, mostly in the south and midlands. There were also some stops such as Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, Salisbury, and a free day in London. Gary and Deb's presentation will include a nice sample from their library of 2,000+ tour photographs to best represent the large public gardens, pinetums and nurseries that specialize in conifers, plus photos from the 2010 Royal Horticultural Society Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Even a hosta photo or two is likely to show up in their presentation. Gary and Deb look forward to sharing the highlights of this trip with the IPHS and guests.

Officers for 2011

President - Siska Kallio

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*Membership - Single \$10, Family \$15 and
Commercial at \$25 per calendar year.*

For more information contact

Vice President - Membership:

Susan Krumm, 508 James St, Champaign, IL 61821

krumms@comcast.net

Web Site - <http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com>

Committee Chairs

*Allerton Hosta Garden - Mary Ann Metz
and Karen Meyer*

Audit - Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality - Susan Weber

Newsletter - Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic - Susan Weber

Plant Raffle - Liza Weber

Plant Sale - Mike Weber

Publicity - Fran Smith

Trips - Rick Schroeder

Please volunteer and help these chairpersons.

Future Meetings

Another gardening year is upon us and we have our first meeting at Parkland College's Tony Noel Center, located in the northwest part of the campus. The quickest way to enter is north on Duncan Road, turn right at the entrance and go east to the main drive. Turn left and in a few hundred feet take another left to the meeting area. The entrance is the northern door on the east side of the building.

Next month we will have the listing for all upcoming meetings. We do know of two dates, May 20/21, 2011 will be the Five Family plant sale with the IPHS Potluck and meeting/program at the Schroeder's on the 21st. The second firm date is June 11 & 12, 2011 when we will head to St. Louis for a 2-day visit to 5 gardens, a garden center and the St. Louis Botanical Garden.



Thuga plicata "Whipchord" - check out Blue River Nursery

New AHS Website

Check out the new and improved AHS web site. It can still be found at www.hosta.org.

This site is really improved and takes you to the home page of each local society. There is a section being developed for members only and will require a password for access. You will find many items not previously listed on the web site and there is even a section being developed for site sponsors. Check it out and become a member.

New Members

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Paula Treichler and Cary Nelson, 808 S. Lynn St, Champaign, IL

Stan and Penny Cukay, 583 CR 1800N, Champaign, IL

Mike and Lynn Tague, 2425 CR 1000E, Champaign, IL

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

I think the true gardener is a lover of his flowers, not a critic of them. I think the true gardener is the reverent servant of Nature, not her truculent, wife-beating master. I think the true gardener, the older he grows, should more and more develop a humble, grateful and uncertain spirit. ~Reginald Farrer, In a Yorkshire Garden, 1909



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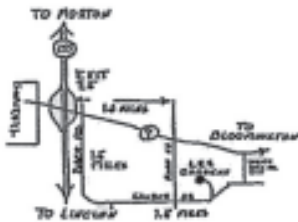


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From Siska's Garden

Sitting at home waiting out the February 1st snowstorm made my warm, even if wet, California Christmas seem very far away. When I was a kid and my family would visit my grandparents in Alabama for Christmas, it always seemed very weird for the weather to be warm and the grass green. (Let alone worrying about whether Santa Claus would find us.) Christmas should be white. As an adult – a warm Christmas doesn't seem so bad. And gorgeous pyracantha and nandina bushes with their red berries substitute just fine for holly.

Nothing to do now but wait for spring and another great year of programs with the IPHS. Be thinking, too, of all the hostas that you didn't get around to dividing last year. Mary Ann Metz says the Allerton hosta display garden will need some replacements and Deb Guardia will be looking for plants for our new project at the Japan House. Don't forget to offer Liza Weber help with hostas, companion plants or garden accoutrements for the raffles at our monthly meetings. It's a great way to raise money for the club. And run, don't walk, to your calendars to mark down June 11th and 12th for our bus trip to St. Louis. Rick Schroeder, our tour operator extraordinaire, has planned another great outing.

Looks like the garden year is under way! Hope to see all of you at the first meeting in March.

Siska Kallio

IPHS Annual Bus Trip

St. Louis, MO area

5 outstanding gardens

St. Louis Botanical Gardens

Garden Center Visit

June 11 & 12, 2011

'Praying Hands', Hosta of the Year - 2011

Hosta 'Praying Hands' (G. Williams '96) is probably the most unusual hosta you will find. This hosta has dark green twisted leaves that grow stiffly upward in a vase-like shape. There is a very slight thin white to cream edging on the



slightly rippled leaves. This hosta will grow to about 18 inches tall and in general an 18-inch spread. Pale lavender blooms come on the scapes in late summer. This

is one hosta that is either loved or hated. In your garden this hosta will get the most questions asked - "is that really a hosta?" If you don't have one you should.

AHS Online Journal

The *Online Hosta Journal*, which was released in early December, has been a resounding success! While initially a few comments were received from members that were unhappy with the decision to produce the Journal online, the majority of our members

have understood the necessity of making this decision and are willing to make a few changes in order for the society we all love to continue and to



flourish.

Many favorable comments have been received and by and large members have embraced the new online format. The advantages are more articles and not needing to limit word counts for space consideration, and above all, more and larger photos.

The *Online Hosta Journal* is only available to AHS members so hopefully our AHS members have checked it out. If not a member of the AHS we encourage membership that gets you access to the new online publication. The information is in the box below, so check it out. While you are at it join the MRHS.

If you are an AHS member but did not receive the Email about the on line publication please contact Sandy and give her your updated address. The password to get on the site was in the last issue of the Hosta Journal in Tom's article.

Membership

American Hosta Society

Contact Sandie Markland at PO Box 7539 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948-7539. Individual membership is \$30 per year, \$34 for family which gives you 3 issues of *The Hosta Journal* per year (an outstanding volunteer publication) - join now - <http://www.hosta.org/> Check out the updated website, the changes are fantastic.

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL 61822-5239. Membership is \$20 for 2 years - join now - <http://www.MidwestHostaSociety.org>

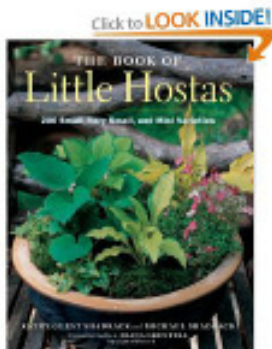
We urge you to join both societies.

The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Mini, Small and Very Small Varieties

From the authors Michael and Kathy Guest Shadrack comes the new book for you small hosta lovers.

Hostas are irresistible. Their sculptural leaves and appealing textures make it difficult to stop at one, and it is easy to fill a garden with them. Help is at hand with this attractive guide to the popular new small hostas that take up less space and are ideally suited to container cultivation. They can be used on their own or with companion plants to make charming displays on the patio, porch, or even windowsill.

Many small hostas are simply scaled-down versions of classic hostas, while others offer distinctly new attributes in terms of color, leaf shape, and patterning. Like full-size hostas, small hostas can be upright, flat, or cascading; there are varieties that are full of substance, and others that are fine and delicate; there are green



ones, gold ones, blue ones, variegated ones, and splashed ones. Some are better garden plants than others, and a valuable function of this book is to showcase the very best of the new introductions.

Photographs of the hostas in garden settings show how admirably they respond to imaginative display in a wide range of situations including waterside, woodland, and rock gardens.

Beautifully illustrated and highly informative, this handpicked selection of diminutive hostas will inspire hobbyists and gardeners alike and provide inspiration for new

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Hosta and Garden Web Sites

Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org/>

For those of you that are new, or maybe an "old timer" wanting to know what your hosta is, check out this site and the thousands of photos on file. In addition there are links to disease and pest issues, chat rooms, how to grow and select hostas and a wealth of information at a touch of your mouse.

Hosta Forum – questions/answers - <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

A great place to get questions answered or check out the new hostas on the market. Post your photos or check out those that posted by other hosta lovers.

Wade & Gatton Nursery – a must visit - <http://www.pal-metto.com/hosta/wade/wade.html>

This is a must place - the actual location near Mansfield, Ohio, to visit after you check out the web site.

Growing Seeds - www.hostaseedlings.com

If you want to share your experience in seed growing or get questions answered check out this site. Another good site to check out for seeds that grow is www.hostaseedgrowers.com, they give ratings on seeds that are fertile or not and hints to growing.

Country Arbors Nursery - membership gets you a 10% discount on Hostas - <http://countryarbors.com>

Green Hill Farms, Bob Solberg - www.HostaHosta.com

Check out Bob's catalogue as well as his information on hostas

Mickfield Hostas of England - check this site for individual photos of the leaf of the hosta you are interested in - a great site to identify a hosta. - <http://www.mickfieldhostas.co.uk/a.htm>

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Madison, Wisconsin - July 7-9, 2011

By Irwin Johnson

All hosta enthusiasts are invited to the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention next July 7, 8, and 9 in Madison, Wisconsin. Many of our members across the mid-western states of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan have never been to a hosta convention. What is a hosta convention?

A hosta convention is many enjoyable and educational activities to give you ideas and examples of ways to improve your garden and learn more about this most popular perennial plant. These activities include:

1. Attendees will tour five private gardens, where you will see hostas new to you, displayed and grouped in ways also new to you, with companion plants also perhaps new to you.
2. We will have a hosta leaf show; after judging Friday afternoon you will be able to see which were judged the best, again providing you with ideas as to possible additions to your garden. There are more than 100 categories of hostas judged. There will also be artistic displays to admire, and a special category of new hosta seedlings and sports.
3. Selling hostas will be vendors from North Carolina, Washington, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. You will be able to purchase hostas Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (after you have seen the hosta show and the five gardens). Hosta resource books will be available, including Mark Zilis' *Hostapedia*.
4. We will have an auction Friday evening (silent, and live bidding!), during which you can acquire even more new hostas.
5. We will offer Judging Clinic #1 Friday morning. This is the first requirement to becoming a hosta judge, and will cost \$10, or you can download the required materials on your computer at home.
6. We will have a Pig Roast Friday evening, overlooking beautiful Lake Monona and the state capitol building; a banquet Saturday evening, with a cash bar; a buffet breakfast Saturday morning, and a box lunch Saturday midday.
7. Our banquet speaker will be Ed Lyon, Director of Allen Centennial Garden on the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin. Speaking Friday afternoon, while the hosta show is being judged, will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture of Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin [an AHS Display garden]; and Robert Simiele, who links beautiful pictures of hostas with beautiful music.
8. We will be housed in the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 1 (800) 325-3535, or 1 (608) 2512300, where the special room rate will be \$103 plus tax.
9. In the evenings, after vending Thursday evening, after the auction Friday evening, and after the banquet Saturday evening, we will have "HOSTATALITY," with water, soda, or beer, and snacks, on us!

Contact Irwin Johnson, (262) 786-1758, irwiniohnson@wi.rr.com, or, 13685 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122

The registration form for the convention will be sent as a separate document. Sign up now and get ready for hostas in Wisconsin.

planting schemes.

About the Authors:

Michael Shadrack is a member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society and the American Hosta Society. His interest in photography has led to a library of nearly 3200 hosta images, many of which have been published in books, magazines, and catalogs. He regularly lectures on hostas in Europe and North America.

Kathy Guest Shadrack has gardened passionately in Western New York for over 25 years and has maintained collections of hostas, irises, and daylilies. A former secretary of the American Iris Society, she is currently the secretary of the American Hosta Society.

Editor: The above description is from Amazon.com which has the new book listed at \$18.49. Ours has arrived and Barb has been pouring over the book checking out our collection. We were pleased to see that one of our small hosta areas is included in the book. If you are a lover of the "small ones" Barb highly recommends you add this one to your collection.

The Hosta Gardening Calendar

by Bob Solberg

Editor: I ran this article two years ago and if you forgot, or if you are a new member, I thought his spring comments were helpful and should be listed again

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.

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Future Conventions

The 2011 AHS Convention sponsored by the New England Hosta Society, Marlborough, MA, June 22-25, 2011

The 2011 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention will be in Madison, WI, July 7-9, 2011

Hosta College, Great Lakes Region Hosta Society, Piqua, OH, March 10-11, 2011

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

The 2012 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention will be in Rochester, MN, July 2012

Membership Renewal Time

The 2011 membership renewal form has been sent via Email or snail mail to you. Please complete and send back to Susan Krumm as soon as possible. You may bring the form and your check to the next meeting if you wish. **This will be the last newsletter you will receive this year unless 2011 dues are paid by March 30.**

Please complete the form to include your email address as we need to verify any update you may have. Remember, newsletters are sent as PDF files via Email so you get the full color of each issue. You may mail your renewal to:

Susan Krumm

508 S. James St.

Champaign, IL 61821

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, lightweight 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 set 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.

Finally - go to a local hosta meeting.

Railroad Engineer's Garden

H 'American Choo Choo' *

H 'Choo Choo Train'

H 'Hooties Coal Dust' **

H 'Locomotion'

H 'Midnight Express' *

H 'Zephyr' (Pioneer) *

H 'Rock Island Lines'

H 'Valley's Chute-the-chute'

These Garden Theme hostas are listed at www.pwk.resteddoginn.ca.

* Hostas listed in Mark's book but are not for sale and only found in one garden.

** Not listed in Mark's book



Our IPHS Annual Meeting of 2010 was held at the I Hotel in Champaign. Our speaker was Dave Wanninger of Beaver Creek Nursery is joined by Karen Meyer, dinner organizer, past President Susan Weber and our incoming President Siska Kallio.