

# *Prairie Hosta Herald*

*October 2005 Volume 2 Number 6*

*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.

## *October 29, 2005 - First Annual Banquet and Meeting*

As noted elsewhere in this issue, our annual meeting will be held at the Champaign County Club on South Prospect in Champaign. Our speaker for the evening is **Roy Klehm**, a fourth generation nurseryperson from Northern Illinois. Roy graduated from the U of I as have several members of his family. The Klehms' mail order farm was in Champaign County for 27 years where peonies, daylilies, tree peonies and hosta were the specialties. Roy travels worldwide speaking about, photographing and searching for the best plants available and has introduced to the gardening world many fine plants.

We will have a short business meeting for election of officers for 2005. We look forward to having you attend the last meeting of this year. Remember, no meetings until March 2006.

## *Officers for 2005*

*President - Barb Schroeder*

*1st Vice President - Programs - Mike Weber*

*2nd Vice President - Membership - Rick Schroeder*

*Secretary - Deb Guardia*

*Treasurer - Mary Slack*

*Board Member at Large - Micha Ronquest*

*Board Member at Large - Sue Welke*

*Editors - Rick and Barb Schroeder*

*Membership - Single \$10, Family \$15 per calendar year. For more information contact*

*Vice President - Membership:*

*Rick Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL  
61822*

*Web Site - <http://www.prairienet.org/iphs/>*

## *Future Meetings*

### *March 2006:*

The 4th Saturday in March will be the first meeting of the new year. Our first newsletter 2006 will be published in late February with the schedule for 2006 meetings along with locations, program listings and planned trips.

## *President's Message*

Will I, like the Hostas are getting ready for winter. Clean up has begun in the yard. My duties as President for this year are winding down. My next task is to get the officers and chairpersons together to start planning for next year. Yes, we start planning in the fall for the next spring. I hope to have appointed the new chairpersons by our October meeting, and have a meeting date set in November for all of us to meet and get going on next year. Gee, I can't believe 2005 is almost over and we are starting to talk about 2006. During the winter I will dream about all the changes I want to make in the beds and how many new hosta I want (of course my dreams are always bigger than my energy or pocketbook). I hope to see all of you one more time this year at our First Annual Banquet. We will vote in the officer nominees and hear a great speaker. I hope everyone can come.

See you October 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Barb Schroeder, President*

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## *Gardening Tips*

1. Is it too late to plant??? We've discussed before that fall is a great time to be planting hostas. What's more, by planting in the fall you can gain nearly a full growing season as compared to waiting until next spring. This will be more readily apparent next spring as you will most likely have multiple eyes or pips emerge simply as a result of planting now. But how late can you plant? The answer really depends on Mother Nature, but with a little extra mulching to prevent winter heaving, you can safely plant up until front time.

2. Planning a bed for next year? If you're planning a new hosta bed (or any annual or perennial

### *Illinois Prairie Hosta Society Newsletter by Email*

For those of you that get your newsletter by snail mail if you'd like to receive your newsletter in color, by email, send your request to: [bschroeder@insightbb.com](mailto:bschroeder@insightbb.com) include "IPHS Newsletter by Email" in the subject line.

## *New Members*

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Ruth and Bill Walker, 1657 Phillips Woods,  
Urbana

Cheryl Pettus, 1005 S. Sixth Street,  
Champaign

Anna Bergvelt, 2306 Brookhaven Dr,  
Champaign

As we end our first complete year of activities our membership has grown from 18 that started the society to 77 with these new members. We thank all of you for your interest and support in our society.

bed) for next year, why not complete the soil prep work this fall? Then let Mother Nature further refine the soil structure with the natural effects of freezing and thawing. The hard work will be done and you'll be ready to plant next spring. Remember to add plenty of organic matter to our typical soils.

3. First Frost Date. Our average first frost date in Kansas City is October 26<sup>th</sup> (October 15<sup>th</sup> around here). However when do we ever see anything "average" about the weather? Anything can happen in the month of October as our days get shorter and our average high temperature drops 13 degrees over the course of the month. The good news relative to hostas is there's really nothing to be done in advance of that killing frost. Just rest assured that you've chosen a very hardy perennial that is now ready for a winter sleep. Hostas actually welcome the cooler weather as they require a cold dormancy period of about 700 hours at temperatures below 40 degrees (That's why they can't be grown as house plants – a question that arises frequently.)

4. Getting hosta beds ready for winter. There are differing opinions on whether to clear away the dead hosta foliage following our first killing frost. If you've had any problems this year with fungal diseases (which can over winter on dead foliage) or with voles, then I'd recommend you clear away this foliage before winter sets in. The same applies if you'd simply like to maximize your fall chores while

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**ILLINOIS PRAIRIE HOSTA SOCIETY, APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

I wish to renew my/our membership in the ILLINOIS PRAIRIE HOSTA SOCIETY for the year 2006.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2006 membership in the society.

Please return this form with your check to:

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, Richard Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61822

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Illinois Prairie Hosta Society**

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*Print out/copy this page and return the portion above with your check to renew your membership for 2006*

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***Country Arbors***

Remember, all members of the IPHS receive a 10% discount on all merchandise at Country Arbors, located on East Windsor Road, Urbana. Country Arbors is located about 1.5 miles east of Illinois Route 130. Plan now to visit Shane next spring for your new plants, rocks, yard ornaments or any other garden needs.



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*Our last day of the season  
is Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.*

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minimizing spring cores. Otherwise feel free to just let the dead foliage sit for the winter which does provide some additional insulation during the winter months ahead as well as for late spring frosts. Even if you do opt to clear away the foliage, I like to leave a bloom scape or two in place to help mark the plant location to avoid trampling the hosta before it begins to emerge next spring. (Ed note: If you ask our experts in our society they will say to remove the dead as it helps prevent diseases from wintering over. A practice that we have done for years, besides there is none or very little cleanup in the spring.)

Information came from hostaguy.com, the website of a nursery in Kansas called Made in the Shade Gardens. And from a reprint in the *Central Illinois Hosta Society Newsletter*.

**FRIED BANANAS**



## ***Annual Banquet***

*Remember, our First Annual Banquet to be held at the Champaign Country Club on October 29. Our guest speaker for this first banquet will be Roy Klehm, a good friend of member Mary Ann Metz. We need reservations returned by October 16. The reservation form was included in last months issue and also sent as a separate E-mail. We will also elect new officers at this meeting as noted in the last issue. It should be a great event and we encourage all of you to attend our first banquet. By the way, since this is the first banquet the dress code will be "casual/dressy" with no jeans and tennis shoes and guys, you don't have to wear a tie.*

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## ***Balance the Scales***

By Mary Chastain, Lakeside Acres

(Taken from The Chattanooga Regional Hosta Society)

Fall clean up time is just around the corner. Lately I have read articles dealing with how we should leave our hosta

In gardens for the winter, as in life, there is no perfect way that can meet the needs of all. Some articles have been emphatic in the fact that leaving leaves on the garden is the thing to do. I agree with the idea that leaves offer protection for the plants during the winter months and that they also provide nutrients for the soil. They help keep the ground cool in the spring so that hostas are not as likely to emerge too early. This is good and I concur with those things. Other articles have dismissed the fact that it is good to remove all of the weeds and old foliage from the garden in the fall. At this time I wish to say, leaves may hold excessive moisture as well as fungi both, which can be harmful to your hostas. The leaf cover provides space for a well-run hatchery for the proliferation of slugs. Leaving old plant foliage contributes to the spread of fungi and any disease that may be present.

My proclamation is that what works for one is not necessarily for the good of all. If you live in a vole infested area letting the leaves remain on the garden will just about guarantee your loss of hostas over the winter. Voles prefer to move and work in a protected environment. They believe that this wonderful blanket of leaves was created just for them.

## ***Nominations for offices 2006***

***1st Vice President - Programs - Deb Guardia***

***Secretary - Ann Stout***

***Board Member at Large - Sue Welke***

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Under this cover they build a network of free ways, which takes them from the banquet table of your hosta to the playground where they invite their family, friends and neighbors to come enjoy the buffet. They laughingly announce that there is plenty for all.

Cleaning the garden of weeds, old foliage and leaves in the fall reduces the chance of spreading disease. It also lowers the risk of vole destruction. It eliminates many of the hiding places for vole and slugs. A clean surface allows for the early spring treatment for slugs and provides easier access for fertilizer. Keeping the slug population low during fall and winter eases your battle for control during the growing season. Removing diseased materials lowers your risk of encoring trouble next year. For example consider the possibility of leaving plants and mulch contaminated with the fungus that causes southern blight. How much more likely you are to be plagued with it the following season.

Once the garden is clean and ready for winter a thin layer of clean new pine needles can be spread to offer some winter protection and diminish the washing of your soil. A thin cover of pine needles allows air to circulate over the ground. Though they offer some shade and protection for your plants they are open enough to discourage the construction.

Now that we have weighed the pros and cons you must balance the scales to meet the situation in your garden. Will the value of leaves in your garden out weigh the disadvantages that they may offer?

## ***Special Offer from Solberg's Green Hill Farm!***

Clubs can place orders for special hostas offered at special club prices by Bob Solberg, owner of Green Hill Farm and 2003 winner of the American Hosta Society's Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award each fall.

Every year Bob draws up a list of particular hostas including some of his own most recent introductions along with some from other top hybridizers and sells them at deeply discounted prices to members of hosta clubs across the U.S. Orders must be placed through local clubs such as ours, although any individual may buy these and other hostas directly from Green Hill Farm at Bob's ordinary - i.e., retail- prices.

In addition to saving money on the "club list" plants, members will have the chance to buy Bob's exclusive club hosta. Which is usually not yet available on any other wholesale or retail list in the country.

*(My question to the club members is: Would you be interested in our club doing this next year. It requires 10 of any one hosta be ordered to get the discount so we would have to coordinate efforts a little. I think we might be able to get one or two varieties. Your opinion is appreciated. Barb)*

## ***Diagnosing Hosta Problems - Cheat Sheet***

By Janna Beckerman, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Minnesota

Taken from Minnesota Hosta Society Newsletter, and Central Illinois Hosta Society newsletter, this key is meant as an aid, not a comprehensive treatise on diagnosing hosta problems. When in doubt, contact your local Extension office.

### **LEAVES and CROWN**

#### Symptoms

#### Possible Causes

Holes, notches or cutleaves

Insects and mollusks. In warmer climates, black vine weevils commonly feed on edges. Other possible problems include cutworms and leaf-cutter bees.

Spots-tan to Brown-random

Fungal leaf spot. Remote severely infected leaves, minimize wet foliage.

Spots, Brown and clustered

Four-lined plant bug.

Ringspots - Mottling - Deformity

Virus. Laboratory identification is needed to determine which type of virus, and needed management strategy.

Change in color

Sport virus.

Blights Anthracnose

Leaf spots that expand down leaf veins and infect petioles. Use a hand lens - identify black fruiting bodies in lesion to confirm diagnosis.

Dead areas between veins

Foliar nematodes.

Scorch

Insufficient water; too much sun.

Reduced Size

Inadequate water or fertilizer; "Weak cultivar"; Root rot.

Reduced Number

Inadequate water or fertilizer; "Weak cultivar"; Root rot.

Collapse

Hosta collapse after a few hard freezes in the fall. Burrowing animal damage. Check roots. Crown rot. Check for mycelial growth and "mustard seed-like" structures.

### **ROOTS**

Brown

Root rot. laboratory diagnosis to determine which one is essential to management.

Stubby Lesions

Nematode.

Galls

Nematode.

## *Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society*

It's time to begin planning for winter. The Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society that is. This year's big winter event will be held Sat. Jan. 21, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel, 1800 East Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL (800) 223-1234. They have given us an \$81.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations, before Jan 6, and mention the Hosta Society to guarantee the rate. The Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel is the same great location, as last year's very successful event. Again we have an All Star line-up of speakers with interesting and timely topics

- Glenn Herold-Hydrangeas
- John Elsley-New Perennials
- Dawn Anderson-Growing Hostas in Pots
- Mark Zilis-Hostas of Distinction
- Ron Karlic-My Garden Throughout the Season
- Bob Balitewicz-Inducing Ploidy in Hostas with Treflan
- *NEW!* Auction of Host a seeds

The cost of the winter extravaganza is only \$45.00 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, and mail before Jan. 6, 2006, with your name, address, phone, and the number attending, to:

Morgan Wilson, 1880 N. Hennepin, LaSalle Ill. 61301, Phone (815) 224-1383

(Sign-up after Jan. 6 2006 is \$55.00)

Registration will begin on Fri. Jan 20, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Sat. morning from 7:00 am - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Sat. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:30 pm -11pm, both Fri. and Sat. nights, for all that good Hosta fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Tom Micheletti, Northern Illinois Hosta Society

Name of first attendee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> attendee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee if paid after Jan 6, 2006 is \$55.00

Total                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address of attendee, or contact person

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation notices are not sent out. Please retain a copy of this registration form and your check if you are in doubt of registration. Please allow 5 working days for registrations to reach us before the event date. We will be unable to issue refunds after Jan. 6, 2006.

*This past January Barbara and I attended our first Winter Meeting along with several others from our newly formed society (believe me it was winter!). We really enjoyed the meeting, learning from the various speakers. This meeting is not very far away and in January you are always looking for a reason to get out and start thinking about spring. Mail your reservation in and come join us this year as we plan to attend again.      Rick*