

Prairie Hosta Herald

October 2008 Volume 5 Number 9

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.

Annual Fall Banquet 2008 - Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

Sunday, October 26, 2008 12: 00 Noon

**Robert Allerton Park and Retreat Center , 515 Old Timber Road ,
Monticello, IL 61856**

Hosta Highlights

Speaker

Mark Zilis of Q & Z Nursery, Inc.

IPHS is privileged to host a presentation by Mark Zilis author of *The Hosta Handbook*, a must have resource for hosta enthusiasts, and *The Hosta Encyclopedia*, in publication. Mark is the president of Q & Z Nursery, Inc. located in Rochelle, Illinois where he has introduced a number of significant hostas. Mark's presentation will include information on hosta hybridization and propagation, Japanese cultivars, hosta diseases, and much more. If you love hostas, then you will not want to miss this special program.

The Hosta Encyclopedia, By Mark Zilis. Five years in the making, *The Hosta Encyclopedia* consists of 1,100 pages of hosta descriptions, history, and origins with illustrations and photographs; some 7,500 hostas are included in the work. We hope to have copies of *The Hosta Encyclopedia* available for purchase. You will be notified as information becomes available.

Officers for 2008

President - Barb Schroeder

1st Vice President - Programs - Cynthia Helms

2nd Vice President - Membership -Rick Schroeder

Secretary - Vickie Morris

Treasurer - Mary Slack

Board Member at Large - Ruth Walker

Board Member at Large - Fran Smith

Membership - Single \$10, Family \$15 and

Commercial at \$25 per calendar year.

For more information contact

Vice President - Membership:

Rick Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL

61822 - rickschro1@gmail.com

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

Committee Chairs

Allerton Hosta Garden - M. Metz and Karen Meyer

Audit - Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality - Sue & John Maggio

Newsletter- Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic - Marcia Jurgens

Plant Raffles - Karen Meyer & Nancy Martinkus

Plant Sale - Mary Ann Metz

Publicity - Bev Cotter

Leaf Show - Mary Ann Metz

Trips - Rick Schroeder

Ways & Means - Whit & Cathy Daily

Please volunteer and help these chairpersons.

Future Meetings

• Each year this column lists the meetings for the year. This month this is the last issue for 2008 and the next meeting will be in March 2009. We will publish a newsletter in late February (get you ready for gardening when it is cold) and at that time list the planned meetings for 2009.

Membership Renewal Form

Once again we reach that time of year for renewal of membership dues. Attached to this issue of the *Prairie Hosta Herald* (separate email to those that received your issue electronic) is the 2009 membership renewal form.

This year you will return your form and check to Susan Krumm, 508 S. James Street, Champaign, IL 61821. You may bring the form to the October dinner, if attending, but we would prefer this time that you mail to Susan. Some of you have already renewed for 2009 or had paid for more than one year and thus you will not be receiving the form.



New Members

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Bill Cotter, 3003 Valley Brook Dr,
Champaign, IL

What is a rock and what can it do for my garden?

At the September meeting Gary Ballegeer, Blue Ridge Stone Company discussed the various types of



stone available for landscaping and Susan Weber discussed texture, how they present winter interest when the plants are gone, where to place the focal point in the yard and how to balance them around your yard. If you missed the meeting you missed a great presentation and chance to load up some

from Gary's place of business. There is still time to add them to the garden this year. Photo by Christie Schuetz

Nominating Committee Report

In October elections will be held for the offices of President, Vice President-Membership and Treasurer. The committee is recommending the following members for the office noted:

Susan Weber - President

**Susan Krumm - Vice President -
Membership**

Jamie Isaacs - Treasurer

Additional nominations for these offices can be made at the Annual Meeting to be held in October.

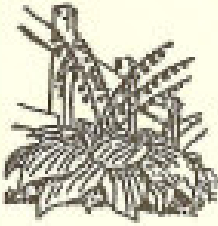
Future Conventions

The AHS 2009 Convention will be in Lansing, Michigan on June 24-27, 2009

The 2010 Midwest Hosta Society Convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa

The AHS 2010 Convention will be in Bloomington, MN

LEE GARDENS



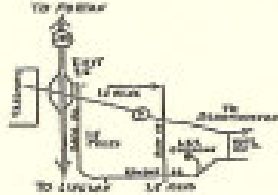
Hours:
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President's Message

The Friendship Plant

As the year nears to its end, as our plants begin their well-deserved dormancy and as we happily nestle into hibernation, we can look back on the last year with satisfaction. Our club is financially healthy, has attracted new members and has enjoyed the company of lovely, friendly people. No wonder they call the hosta 'The Friendship Plant'.

After five years as President it is time to turn over the reigns. I have had a wonderful time as President from our inception in June 2004 until now. This club has grown from 18 members that started this society to the 133 we have today.

I want to thank all the officers and committee chairs that have worked with me during these years to make this club the BEST! Thanks goes to (in no particular order): Mike Weber, Rick Schroeder, Deb Guardia, Mary Slack, Sue Welke, Linda Thurman, Ann Stout, Mary Ann Metz, Fritz Drasgow, Siska Kallio, Marcia Jurgens, Larry and Margaret Hoffman, Bev Cotter, Ruth Walker, Fran Smith, Vickie Morris, Karen Meyer, Cynthia Helms, Whit and Cathy Daily, Sue and John Maggio, Nancy Martinkus, Susan Weber, Gary Guardia, Diann Thoma and all the garden hosts, local speakers, and volunteers that stepped in to help with refreshments, plant sales and raffles.

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Hosta and Garden Web Sites

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

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

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

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

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

Balance the Scales

by Mary Chastain, Lakeside Acres

Fall clean up time is just around the corner. Lately I have read articles dealing with how we should leave our hosta 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 this fact saying that it is better 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 of 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 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. Under this cover they build a network of freeways which takes them from the banquet table of your hostas to the playground where they invite their

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And lastly, but not in the least, to all the members for making this group a fun, friendly, and active society. Because it is the people in our Society that really matter. Everyone plays a part from those busy souls that volunteer to help at our plant sales, attend all our meetings, bus trips, and functions and write articles in the newsletters to those who just enjoy growing hostas, read our newsletters and learn a little more without ever attending our functions and meetings. It is for those folks that we volunteer and work. It is for them that we write these newsletters. To keep them in touch and to hopefully stir their interest just enough for them to come and join us, to come to a meeting and see just what friendly people we are and to understand why they call it the 'Friendship Plant'.

Now, it is time for me to move on to concentrating on the 2009 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention and with that I wish our next President, Board, and members the best. I hope to see all of you at our October meeting.

Barb Schroeder

MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting

Spread the Word! The Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society will continue. This very popular event will now be sponsored and underwritten by the MRHS. Mark your calendar for January 17th, 2009 The location will be Schaumburg, IL. The MRHS Board is planning to expand and have some seminars going on at the same time. Members of various Midwest societies have volunteered to help with the meeting from registration to hospitality and setup. If you want to go and volunteer to help in some way contact Barb or Rick - we will be helping with registration.

Since we don't publish a newsletter until February we will be sending out an email as soon as we have additional information concerning rooms and speakers. Remember, this a great way to meet your hosta friends in the middle of winter.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA CONVENTION 2009

We are 8 months away from hosting the MRHS Convention at the new I Hotel on the campus of the University of Illinois. The planning committee has been meeting on a monthly basis and great progress has been made in arranging an outstanding convention. Over the past months our Chairperson has discussed volunteers that will be needed during the three days of the convention. Many of you have signed up or expressed an interest in helping.

We have several committees that will need additional assistance and we are asking, if you are interested, to sign up now on the form below. Please give us your 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice and we will place you where we need the help. If you have a specific interest please state so in the line. Bev Cotter is the coordinator for the volunteers and she will be sending out information next spring indicating what committee you will be working for and what day/time you would be needed.

Please bring this to the October Annual Dinner or mail directly to

Bev Cotter, 3003 Valley Brook Dr, Champaign, IL 61822 (217-359-2703)

Leaf Show _____ Bus Captain _____
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Vendors _____ Auction _____
Raffle _____ Garden Tour Assistant _____
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Name _____
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Hydrangea

by Glenn Herold

Review of Winter Scientific Presentation written by Lou Horton, and printed in the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Newsletter, Spring 2006

Because he is a horticultural instructor, one might expect Glenn Herold's presentation on the family of woody shrubs known as Hydrangeas to be slanted toward the technical. Instead, we were treated to Glenn's wit and to his common sense insights about Hydrangeas with an emphasis on the practical information useful to the gardener, not the scientist. He began by getting right to the one factor in any specie or variety of Hydrangea that should matter to anyone growing them in Zones 4 or 5 - do flower buds form on new wood? If only old wood (that formed during the previous growing season) will produce the flower buds, (which are frequently killed during our winters) the frequent result is that there are no flowers the following summer. As Glenn went through the various species, he consistently pointed out which could be depended upon to flower because they flowered on new wood. He also shared his personal observations of their performance in either his home garden or the garden he supervises at Illinois Central College.

What follows are assessments of the garden value of the species of Hydrangeas:

Hydrangea anomala petiolaris - Climbing Hydrangea Flowers originate from old wood but buds are reliably hardy (will flower) in Zone 4-5. They are slow to establish but are very impressive in flower

Hydrangea paniculata - Panicle Hydrangea

These feature large flat or cone shaped flower clusters white in color produced in late summer. The most popular types include 'Peegee' (stands for paniculata 'grandiflora') and 'Limelight.' There is also 'Pee Wee' which is much shorter (6-8 ft.) than 'Peegee' which matures at 10 feet or more. In Glenn's opinion, the best of all is 'Unique', which features large clusters of pure white florets. The florets of 'Pink Diamond' start out white and turn a rich pink in the fall. 'Tardiva' is the latest to flower. All of these types are reliably hardy in zone 4 as well as 5.

Hydrangea quercifolia - Oakleaf Hydrangea

This species is perhaps best suited for the shady garden and has the best fall color of any Hydrangea. It can get quite tall (10 feet) and produces its white type flowers which are cone shaped in June.

'**Snow Queen**' is the best of the large Oakleaves while '**Snow Flake**' is a good double flowered version.

'**Harmony**' is a good choice in a mophead type and '**Syke's Dwarf**' is a good recently introduced dwarf version. There is also '**Pee Wee**', only 2-3 feet tall but its blooms tend to flop. Last but not least, there is a yellow-leaved dwarf type- '**Little Honey**' which is a sport of 'Pee Wee'.

There are other species of Hydrangea including serrata and heteromalla but those make relatively poor garden plants in zones 4-5 when compared to those covered.

Pruning recommendations:

§ Climbing - After flowering, seldom is heavy pruning needed.

§ Annabelle types - Cut to ground in the spring for best flowering.

§ Panicle types - Remove old flowers in spring before leaf emergence.

§ Oakleaves - Prune after flowers fade.

Glenn Herold's presentation was, in short, all the gardener ever needed to know about Hydrangeas but didn't know who to ask. A great job by a knowledgeable speaker. Glenn Herold is a Professor of Agriculture & Industrial Technology at Illinois Central College.

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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 voles 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 incurring 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 protection for your plants they are open enough to discourage the construction of vole free-ways.

What our Presidents said about gardening

“Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God .” — Thomas Jefferson

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”— Abraham Lincoln

“No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.”— Thomas Jefferson

“Though an old man, I am but a young gardener.”— Thomas Jefferson