

# 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 April Meeting

IPHS Meeting – 1:00 PM – April 24, 2012

Location – Country Arbors Nursery, East Windsor Road - Urbana

Program – New Varieties and Interesting Plants by owner Shane Coulter.

Shane will show us many of the new plants that have arrived at Country Arbors in addition to having all of the old standards for sale. In addition, our guest from the Memphis area, Larry and Shari Tucker, will talk briefly about the upcoming AHS convention in Nashville and Larry's book "Made in the Shade".

Be sure to bring your lawn chairs as the meeting will be outside in the garden. Bring your checkbook to take home your favorite plant.

### 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)

### Remarks by Siska

Around two dozen IPHS members attended the Appreciation Brunch given in our honor by the U of I Arboretum and College of ACES at Japan House on April 11<sup>th</sup>. A lovely setting decorated with paper peony blossoms hanging from the ceiling greeted us on a beautiful spring morning. After a wonderful breakfast buffet, Bill Kruidenier, the Interim Associate Director of the Arboretum, gave a presentation on the Arboretum's future. One of their long range plans is to make connections between the disparate areas that now exist at the Arboretum. Architectural drawings showed paths and many new planting areas that will

make the Arboretum more cohesive. Bill said that the blossoming cherry trees attracted a large number of people this year which gave it a real Cherry Blossom Festival atmosphere. He also reported that the ponds should be planted and the water restored by the end of summer. We also met Hillary Barnard, a sophomore in horticulture at the U of I, who is the student chosen to receive the internship that was partially funded by our philanthropic donation. You will all get to meet Hillary at a future meeting of the IPHS. Many thanks to the Arboretum and the College of ACES for a memorable

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event in the history of the IPHS. Thanks, also, to Susan Weber for her persistence in helping the club achieve such a great outcome.

Spring is a busy time for everyone, but I hope you will all be able to volunteer at least a little time to help out at the plant sale on May 12<sup>th</sup> and the work days at our hosta gardens at Japan House and Allerton (dates to be determined). Don't forget to sign up for the bus trip.

Rick reports that the response to this trip has been the best ever, so places will be filling up fast. See you at Country Arbors for our next meeting. This will provide an opportunity for that important garden activity – shopping!

Siska

## Officers and Committees

### Officers for 2012

**President—Siska Kallio**  
**1st Vice President—Programs—Carolyn Purcell**  
**2nd Vice President—Membership—Susan Krumm**  
**Treasurer—Jamie Isaacs**  
**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

## 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. Check the writeup on Page 7 and go to their web site. Larry Tucker will be giving a short presentation for the convention at the April meeting.

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention sponsored by the Shades of Green Hosta Society, Rochester, MN – July 12-14, 2012. Check the web-site: [http:// www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/](http://www.soghs.org/2012mrhsconvention/) for more information.

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.

## Membership Renewal

The 2012 membership is due by the end of April so please complete the renewal form that was sent to you via email or snail mail by Susan Krumm. 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

## Hosta Garden Cleanup & Planting

**A Hosta Garden Cleanup at the U of I Arboretum is set for Wednesday, May 3 at 9:30 AM. We need to set out some new plants, weed and spread mulch that will be delivered. Rain day will be Thursday at the same time. A signup list will be available at the next meeting. Bring rake, shovel or hand spade and knee pads. A date for the Allerton Hosta Garden will be set at the next meeting.**

## Future Meetings

April 28 – 1:00 PM - Country Arbors Nursery, East Windsor Rd, Urbana - Shane Coulter will be our speaker.—New Varieties and Interesting Plants

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

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 – 1:00 PM—Mike & Susan Weber home 1006 S. Prospect - Cynthia Wilhoit 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 – 1:30– 4:00 PM—Tour Ann Tice and Rick Orr gardens ending at Bill & Bev Cotter garden, 3003 Valley Brook, Champaign for our meeting.

July 10 – 6:30 PM - 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 – 1:00 PM—Home of Susan Krumm, 508 S. James, Champaign - Program on grasses by Dave Barkley of Barkley Farms.

September 20 – 6:00 PM - Idea Garden, South Lincoln Ave - "Tropical's" by Mary Morris and Bob Skully

October 28— Annual dinner 1:00 PM at Biaggi's on South Neil Street – "Wintering over Hosta Pots" by Rick Schroeder.

## A Different Type of Plant Trough

The North American Rock Garden Society—Northwestern Chapter Garden Troughs -Light and Easy

Traditional Hypertufa troughs are made of cement. They're heavy. Here is a recipe for a light-weight version that you can make and enhance for natural effects. They can last for several years.

### Materials:

An empty, polystyrene box, such as a fish box, from a fish market or supermarket

A wire brush or other tool to rough up the outside of the box

Optional: hot air gun to slightly melt and round corners and make shapes

One or two colors of tough porch or deck paint (rock colors)

Some sand, grit, pumice, gravel or mortar mix for texture

Process: Scrape and scar the box surface. Round sharp corners and mimic rock surfaces. Paint on one color as an undercoat, then add the second color to give a mottled effect and enhance textures. While paint is still wet, throw sand, grit or pumice onto the box to add texture. Or add a light coat of mortar mix for more of a stone appearance.

Remember to carefully punch drainage holes in the bottom. Plant with small and slow-growing plants. Stand the trough on a pair of bricks and dress with gravel.

For many more trough recipes, light and heavy, visit [www.nargsnw.org](http://www.nargsnw.org)

*Thanks to Karen Meyer for the above information. She attended a gardening seminar in the Washington state area and found this item to be interesting. If you have one of these polystyrene boxes around the house and try the method let us know how it works.*

## 2012 IPHS Bus Trip—Peoria & Hornbaker

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.

**The Smith Garden, Groveland, Illinois:** Janette Smith's garden features a perennial garden and a hosta garden with about 200 different varieties. It also features a pergola with wisteria vines, fountains and a small private lake. Antique garden elements collected over the years are interspersed throughout the gardens to provide a patina and personality.

**The Jones Garden, East Peoria, Illinois:** Carolyn and Don Jones are hosta gardeners at heart. However an ice storm a few years ago removed several trees and the garden became more eclectic. With the added sunlight, new favorites have emerged, like coneflowers, coral bells and phlox which provide color and attract both hummingbirds and butterflies. They started with one hosta, given as a gift and quickly became obsessed, with over 450 plants ranging from very large to very small. In addition, ornamental trees like Japanese maple, dogwood and redbud provide a beautiful spring display. Carolyn's new interest brings whimsy to the garden with fairies, gnomes and moss as well as many varieties of ferns and grasses. Gardening is a great way to enjoy nature and bring beauty to the world. They love sharing their garden and hope you enjoy your visit.

**The McConnell Garden, Dunlap, Illinois:** Dan McConnell enjoys writing as well as gardening as you will find from his garden description. "In the movie, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, there is the scene where the title characters, train robbers, are being pursued by the railroad marshals. When it appears the outlaws cannot evade the posse, Sundance (Robert Redford) asks, 'What's the plan?'

Butch Cassidy (Paul Newman) replies, 'Plan? Heck kid, I'm making this up as we go along.' This describes our garden... we're just making it up as we go along.

It all started when we put in the lawn after building our home. It was early spring. The grass grew and looked good. Then the trees leafed out, summer came and one morning we looked out and the grass was gone. I don't mean it had thinned or we had a few bare spots, it was completely gone. Welcome to deep shade!

Then we discovered hostas. We began the accumulation phase of hosta addiction, where the idea is to get as many different hostas as possible. We did not worry about color, size or texture. We were going for volume.



Now we have lots of hostas, accompanied by hydrangeas, coral bells, ferns, sedum and various other plantings. Like your garden, ours keeps evolving. We try new plants, move old ones and re-work planting areas. We enjoy our time outside and have tried to make our yard comfortable and relaxing for our family, friends and especially our granddaughters. All this while making sure the deer have a varied and healthy diet."

**The Dye Garden, Edelstein, Illinois:** Kay Dye began her garden when they moved to their home on almost two acres in 1990. "I immediately began planting on a steep bank in front of the house by the street because it was ugly clay and eroded. After that I moved to the rest of the yard which is mostly dappled shade from large white and red oaks, hickories and some other trees. At first it was mostly a hosta garden. I then joined our local Peoria club and the national club, went to some conventions and felt

(Continued on page 6)



**Our IPHS Friends—be sure to visit them**



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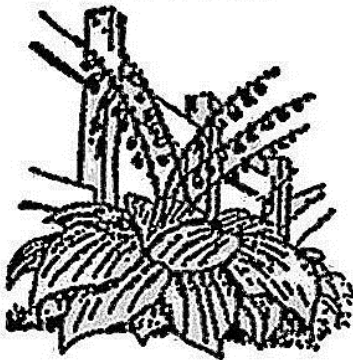
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## IPHS May 12 Plant Sale Hostas

**Atomic Elvis**-[M] (Livingston) Here we have an obvious cross between H. 'Atom Smasher' and H. 'Elvis Lives' with some of the best traits of each parent. Long narrow blue-green leaves reach out creating a dense medium-sized clump...the leaves have a long tip with a slight twist and the wavy margins are almost hypnotic. A vigorous grower that will be topped with lavender flowers. "Whole lotta shakin" happening with this plant!

**Banana Boat**-[S/M] (Lachman) This unique hosta is back after a few years absence...elongated leaves have a bright yellow center and dark green margins. They are cupped with a leathery substance and a slight sheen. Attractive violet flowers.

**Country Mouse**-[mini] (Hansen) Tiny blue-green leaves have a crisp white border on a great new sport of H. 'Bill Dress's Blue'. Vigorous grower and makes a perfect little clump that hugs the ground and is topped with lavender flowers.



**Cracker Crumbs**-[mini] (Solberg) Sport of H. 'Shiny Penny'..shiny leaves emerge bright yellow-gold surrounded by a dark green margin and, as the season progresses, the color becomes chartreuse, then almost coppery, and continues to darken until late summer. Makes a tight clump topped with dark lavender flowers.

**Dancing Mouse**-[mini] (Fransen) A new H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' sport from Marco Fransen...thick blue-green leaves have a wavy yellowish-green border that darkens to a pale green as the season progresses. The wavy border and unique color combination makes this one different from other "mice". Topped with lavender flowers just like the parent.

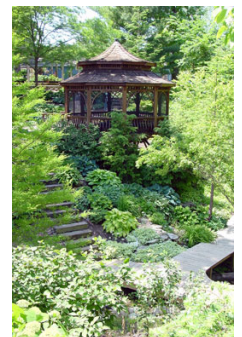
**Devil's Advocate**-[L] (Walters Gardens) Superb sport from H. 'Blue Angel' with the normal large blue leaves framed by a light green border. Stunning

*(Continued from page 4)*

I needed to have every cultivar offered. After a serious infection of nematodes and crown rot, I started throwing away any hosta that showed a sign of either. So, what I have today is fewer hostas. Today's hostas are larger since I can't move them around due to fear of replanting them where diseased hosta once lived. Now I am interested in other plants that will fill in all the spaces left after I took out the hostas. I am seriously into Japanese maples, hydrangeas that bloom on old wood, ferns, & epimediums. I waited five years before I let anyone into my garden after the nematodes struck. I actually like my garden more now because of the diversity of plants. Plus, I discovered rebar and all that could be created with it. I like to think my garden is ever changing, although I am trying to create low maintenance areas, since I think I'm about at the end of being able to heft an 80 lb. bag of concrete."

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 April meeting and was also sent out the first part of April. 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 sign-up get on the bus and get one (The over 50 may have to ride on top).



Rick

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## AHS National Convention—Nashville

### Come and experience Hostas, Friends and Music, the 2012 American Hosta Society Convention, June 13-16 at Nashville Airport Marriott.

The Scientific Seminar will include seven hosta presentations...original photographs taken by Eric Smith...a keynote address by George W. Schmid...latest DNA studies by Ben Zonnerveld of Leiden, The Netherlands...a talk on hydrangea, Japanese maples and conifers...and two historical talks, including the Emmy winning "Rise of the Southern Biscuit." A unique Photography Contest will offer attendees the opportunity to show their skills in macro-photography, hosta flowers photography and humor in interpreting "Yard Art."

The Hosta Hat Contest will return on Saturday evening with the Parade of Hats. (See the website for rules on the above.) Optional and Convention tours will feature historic gardens and homes, unique plant materials and collections, and the opportunity to see southeastern hosta gardens. There will be the traditional Hosta Show, Vendors with some of the newest hosta registrations, Auctions and Old Friends to Greet and New Ones to Meet.

A special tour rate has been obtained from Gray Line for the Grand Ole Opry and we'll even have a bit of music at the hotel. Registration forms available at: [www.hosta2012.com](http://www.hosta2012.com).



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clump will be topped with white flowers early in summer.

**Eola Sapphire**-[L] (Hottovy/Monrovia) Very large blue leaves on one of the largest sieboldiana types...pale lavender flowers.

**Fragrant Queen PP19508**-[M/L] (Jan van den Top) Tetraploid sport of H. 'Fragrant King'...thicker leaves, wider creamy-white border and a super "doer"! We are very impressed with the appearance and performance of this plant, holds up well all season and still looks great late in the summer when it is topped with pale lavender fragrant flowers.

**Frosted June**-[M] (Van den Top/Van Eechaute) This sport from H. 'June Fever' goes through a unique seasonal color change. Shiny yellow leaves have a thin light green border that changes to creamy-white...the center changes to a light green.

**Funny Mouse**-[mini] (Fransen) A new member to the "mouse" family from Marco Fransen... H. 'Funny Mouse' is the reverse variegation of H. 'Snow Mouse' and has a clear white border surrounding a blue-green centered leaf and the border will be fairly wide. The border does turn to creamy or green late in the season. Great little plant with those perfectly proportioned lavender flower.

**Glamour**-[S] (Van Eechaute) Small hosta with an elegant form...creamy-yellow to white leaves have a variable dark green border that streaks to the center. Elongated leaves come to a point and are held in a pleasing arrangement topped with lavender flowers on creamy scapes that eventually hold creamy pods.



**Gypsy Rose**-[M] (Anderson) Good sport from H. 'Striptease'...creamy-yellow to white leaves have a dark green border with the typical thin white line running between the center and the border. Does not

*(Continued on page 8)*



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grow as tall as the parent and will only make about a 15" tall clump. Topped with lavender flowers.

**Lucky Mouse EUPBR-[mini]** (Van den Top) Mama Mouse has been busy...thick blue-green leaves have a wide creamy-yellow border that eventually becomes creamy-white. A sport of H. 'One Iota' and is thought to be the same as H. 'Mighty Mouse'.



**Midnight at the Oasis-[M]** (Naylor Creek Nursery) This sport from H. 'Pathfinder' begins much like its parent with a thick white centered leaf surrounded by a dark green border. Then, as the season progresses (especially if it's a warm one), the white center develops flecks and becomes darker and darker. In cooler climates the center will stay whiter until late summer. Vigorous grower topped with lavender flowers.

**Niagara Falls-[L]** (Brincka/Petryszyn) Large heart-shaped gray-green leaves stand upright and arch outward...each leaf has a dramatically rippled margin and clump is topped with violet flowers.

**Pistache-[M]** (Van Ee Haute) Stunning sport from H. 'Spilt Milk'...leaf centers are a misted combination of several colors of green surrounded by a variable border of green and blue-green. Place the plant in a bright, but shady location, top the clump with white flowers and you have a show stopper that will create lots of interest. Good grower.

**Proud Sentry-[M]** (Dean) Vigorous growing and erect, fountain shaped clump is all dressed up in its crisply pressed and edged uniform. The heavy substance of each leaf is held up and out to reveal the red slacks completing the appearance of this 'Proud Sentry' as it stands guard anywhere in the front to middle of the garden border. Pale lavender flowers.



**Raspberry Sundae PPAF-[S]** (Terra Nova) Bright white leaves have a wide green border and are carried on raspberry-red stems that bring the red color right up into the leaf. Not the fastest growing hosta, but give it some early morning sun or good filtered light and it will come along fine. Deep red scapes are topped with dark purple flowers. Very showy.

**Rhino Hide PPAF-[M]** (Rawson) Extremely thick leaves, much thicker than any other hosta, and they feel just like plastic (reminds one of a Rhino's hide). Strong petioles hold leaves with bright green centers framed with a wide blue border. The leaves are deeply cupped and have lots of puckering. White flowers in early summer.



**Sharp Dressed Man-[M]** (Solberg) Unique...thick leaves have white centers surrounded with a wide green border and a third green color where they cross. Lavender flowers in July.

**Silver Bay-[M]** (Dean) Intense silver-blue leaves make a flat mound about 14" tall. Leaves are quite round with some cupping and good corrugation. Pale lavender flowers in July.



**Silver Threads and Golden Needles-[mini]** (Anderson) Unique sport of H. 'Cheatin Heart' with small gold leaves that have a green center filled with a white flecked or speckled overlay. Dense clump will be topped with lavender flowers.

**Surprised by Joy-[mini]** (Malloy) Delightful mini with cream to white leaf centers framed with crisp green borders...leaves are narrow and held upright. Lavender flowers make a delightful display.



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

### **Spring is coming—Really!**

I hope all of you have enjoyed the new look of the Hosta Herald. It is hard to teach some of us “advanced-in-years semi-computer persons something new. This issue has gone better than I expected and with practice, especially doing two publications, I should get better. A special thanks to my better half for finding some of the items from other sources and getting into a format I can use.

Well, we all know what our gardens have done – sprung to life in a few short weeks. This year we had wild Bluebells up and blooming with hostas right next to them. Never had that happen before, of course I mowed

the yard twice before my March 27<sup>th</sup> birthday – again something I had not done before. Around the 25<sup>th</sup> of March in 1960, while still carrying papers in Danville, we had some 22 inches of snow.

We have uncovered the stored hostas and they are up and ready for a sale now. Most of the large pots have been moved to their final location, mulch has arrived in the driveway and the gardening season is in full swing.

See you at the meeting and I urge you to plan to attend the AHS Convention in Nashville and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society meeting in Rochester, MN this year. - Rick