

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 Membership

Single membership and Family membership is \$15 per year.

Monthly meeting, March to September

Contact:

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<http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com>

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Hosta Meeting—July 30th—1:00 to 3:30 PM U of I Extension Office on 801 Country Fair Drive.

Diane Plewa from the UI Plant Clinic will present "Our most popular plant diseases," followed by our annual potluck dinner. Diane is an expert in plant pathology, plant diagnostics, integrated pest management, vegetables, field crops, ornamentals. Members can bring leaves or plants (don't dig up your big plant, bring a leaf) with problems for identification. Come and learn what may be causing you to lose plants and what you can do to minimize your loss.

This meeting is also our annual Potluck meeting. Gardeners are always known for their great food that they bring to meetings and our group is no exception. Last meeting was a brunch and this time we are early afternoon. Our lunch will be from 1-2 PM with our speaker starting at 2:00 PM. Also remember dessert and it can be something else beside chocolate chip cookies. We will have table service, water, tea and coffee.

IPHS Garage Sale—August 26th 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

On Saturday, August 26 we will hold our bi-annual garage sale at the Schroeder home, 1819 Coventry Drive. This is the annual Maynard Lake Subdivision garage sale which draws hundreds of shoppers. On Wednesday August 23 and Thursday the 24th we will receive your sale items between 1:00 and 4:00 PM each day. If you cannot schedule that time for delivery contact us for other arrangements. We take anything you no longer want, except clothing, and it would be helpful if you would tag a price ahead of time. If you have kids toys or baby (grandkids?) items they do very well.

Friday we will need some volunteers during the 1-4 time to help mark items and Saturday we will need 4-5 volunteers to help get tables out for the sale and help with the sale. All remaining merchandise will be donated to Salt and Light.

Please remember we have a program in the afternoon at the Extension office presented by Rick and Barb, so your help during and after the sale is really appreciated.

Officers and Committees

Officers for 2017

President—Rick Schroeder
1st Vice President—Programs—Diann Thoma
2nd Vice President—Membership—Joyce Goode
Treasurer—Carol McClure
Secretary—Holly O'Donnell
Past President—Ruth Walker
Board Member at Large—Patti Stoffel

Committee Chairs
 U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber
 Audit—Fritz Drasgow
 Hospitality—Patti Stoffel
 Newsletter—Rick Schroeder
 Philanthropic—Susan Weber
 Plant Raffle—Liza Weber—Schaffer
 Publicity— Joan Price

AHS Appreciation Award

Each year the Awards Chairperson for the American Hosta Society contacts the President of a local society for nominations for the Certificate of Appreciation award. This award is presented to members of a local society who have given their time and energy to help promote the local society and help lead it forward each year. This the AHS way of saying “thank you” for supporting a local group and furthering the interest in hostas.

This year I was proud to award two members of our society with the certificate. Patti Stoffel has been our Board Member at Large for the last 4 years and as such has also handled our hospitality at each meeting. She hauls our water and other supplies for each meeting and sets up an outstand table complete with decorations.

Our member receiving the award is Diann Thoma who for 4 years has been Vice President—Programs and has done an outstanding job finding speakers and great programs. In addition she has convinced many of you to open your garden for either a meeting or a visit after the meeting, for which we are all grateful.

Both of these members will end their terms this fall and the nomination committee will be contacting members to fill their shoes. I look forward to some of you stepping forward to volunteer to take one of the positions and continue the progress this group has made.

2017 Meeting Schedule

Welcome to a new year of hosta gardening. This year we have a variety of programs for you to enjoy. Please note most of our programs will be held at the U of I Extension office on Country Fair Drive. The indoor venue provides us with all of the necessities for presenting programs.

August 26 – 8 AM to 12:30 PM - IPHS Bi-annual Maynard Lake Garage Sale – this year at the Schroeder's home 1819 Coventry Dr.

August 26th U of I Extension office 2:00 PM. Members Rick and Barb Schroeder will present a program on how to winter over your potted hostas along with vole control. At 3:30 we will adjourn to the wonderful garden of Karen Meyer on Dodds Drive.

September 24th at Virginia Theater in downtown Champaign. Rob Mortko, the Hosta Guy from Kansas, will present “The Hot Hostas of Tomorrow” new hybridizer introductions from his lab. In addition, Rob will be selling hostas at the theater before and after the program. Also, the first 55 attendees to register for the luncheon will receive a gift mini hosta.

Our past recipients of this award are Mike Weber, Barb Schroeder, Karen Meyer, Rick Schroeder, Susan Krumm, Ruth Walker, Holly and Jim O'Donnell. The names of all of those who have received the award are posted on the AHS web site “brick wall” that honors those that have gone the extra mile to help their local society.

The American Hosta Society also honors it members who contribute volunteer hours to further the society. In 2016 Rick Schroeder received the award for the transportation of the registered photos and forms from the retiring registrar in Virginia to Champaign for further processing. This year Barb and Rick along with members Barry Ankney and Penny Bocelli received the award for their work in scanning, watermarking and checking some 5000+ photos and registration forms. When completed next year the AHS web site will allow access to view the registered photos, supplemental photos along with registration forms of all registered hostas.

AHS Indianapolis Convention

This year's convention was held in Indy on June 7th to the 10th. Elsewhere I have noted which IPHS members attended and we had a very good showing.

The O'Donnell's along with Barb and I were involved in the annual auction by hosting the plant receiving room on Wednesday. First I must say we operated in a refrigerated room to the point that Barb got some old quilts from the car so she and Holly could wrap up to stay warm. Jim and Holly will be handling the future auctions and both of us worked with them for plant entry and later for not only the final listing but the sale/purchase time at the auction Saturday afternoon. We had great help from the Indy volunteers, probably the best I have had in a long time.

Thursday there were speakers including one at lunch. In the late afternoon we loaded on busses to take us to gardens and to Avon Gardens on the west side for touring their sale area plus a catered dinner. The groups were split up with some going to the gardens first, part of us eating and then heading to the gardens. We were on the first dinner busses, bought some items and then visited two outstanding gardens arriving back at the hotel around 9 PM.

Saturday morning the tour of 4 gardens was via busses. Since the O'Donnell's and us were involved with the afternoon auction we drove to allow us to return to the hotel about an hour before the rest of the group. There were two gardens just north of the downtown area in the older part of Indianapolis that were side-by-side. One had some 2000+ hostas while the other had nearly that many. Both were outstanding with large yards and beautiful hardscape items. We could have spent 3 hours in both, but had to leave to visit one more and get back to the hotel.

The luncheon featured the Eunice Fisher award won by Doug Beilstein and then we had the auction. Our early arrival worked great as it took an hour to get setup and get the computer system working (won't get into the bugs that we also had on Wednesday). We had 160 plants entered in the auction this year and the AHS took in over \$15,000 to cover much of the cost of the *The Hosta Journal*. Needless to say we did purchase some plants, one from Dick Ward, a first time ever presented to the public, and one from Dave Chapko, again, only one other out in the public area.

Next year AHS will be in Philadelphia and the following year, 2019, will be in Green Bay. I urge you to attend one as you will have a great time.

Rick



We are always looking to get younger members and Steve Mullen and his wife Jie have been bringing Katie to meetings since almost the day she was born. It looks like they are really getting Katie into the hosta fever. During a visit to Hornbaker's Nursery Katie spotted Hosta 'June Spirit' and had to add it to their collection. Photo by Jie Zou.



Hostas and fountain in the front yard of the Broyles home on the north side of Indianapolis. Some 2000 hostas along with artwork and other hardscape were featured in this outstanding garden

Midwest Region Convention

This year's Midwest Regional Hostas Society convention was held in Lenexa, Kansas with the theme "Hostas in the Land of Ahhhs", which gave us the gift hosta 'Ahhhs', a small dark blueish-green hosta. This convention was a little different in that no "club" was the sponsor. Instead hosta lovers Rob Mortko and Bob Saathoff volunteered to host the group and then stepped back and said "how are we going to pull this off".

A discussion with the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Master Gardeners group brought forth Michele Janson and Carol Fowler and the Master Gardeners to step up and host the convention, under the guidance of Rob and Bob. Additional support came from Mary Ann Metz as the Hosta Show Coordinator and Barb Schroeder as the treasurer/registration of the event. The rest of the committee consisted of MG's who stepped forward to help. The group has plans to bid on a national Master Gardener Convention and with the success they had with this one they should win the competition.

Floyd Rogers and I handled the auction plant receiving along with the auction (Holly and Jim O'Donnell help during the auction). On Friday we traveled by bus to Topeka to visit 3 gardens including a national display garden. Returning in the evening we had dinner and the plant auction raising over \$5,000 for the Midwest.

Saturday was a driving visit to various gardens in the Kansas City area. These were outstanding collections of hostas, yard hardscape and one garden combining hostas and conifers to fill an entire back yard. With advice from Deb Guardia we visited a local nursery during the garden tour and each of us, especially Mary Ann, brought something back home. Both days we had the usual hosta marketplace where attendees could purchase hostas, trees and other perennials.

Each time you turned around there was a MG who could help or answer your question. The group really stepped up and put on a great convention.

At the end of the convention we helped the Peoria group tear down the leaf show and haul the bottles back to Illinois for next year's convention. The only issue we had was walking to the truck on Sunday morning and finding the driver's window smashed, the truck contents strewn all over the inside, but nothing taken (1 of 3 broken into). As our luck would have it we had a cool and clear day to drive home with the window down.

Rick

Hosta Meetings and Conventions—2018

Be sure to put these dates on your calendar so you can attend one of these conventions, especially the one that is close to us.

In 2018 the AHS convention will be in Philadelphia, PA on June 20-23. The Delaware Valley Hosta Society is the sponsor of the 50th anniversary event. The first AHS meeting was chaired by Alex Summers and held at the home of Gertrude and John Wister in Swarthmore, PA. Thirteen avid hosta enthusiasts attended.

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society will be in Peoria, Illinois sponsored by the Central Illinois Hosta Society on July 12-14, 2018. The convention will be held at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Convention Center in East Peoria. There will be the usual leaf show, garden tours, auction and seminars during the 3-day event. Be sure to plan to attend this convention and be part of our "friends" hosta society.



Barbara, Ruth and Susan enjoy a rest on the back deck of the Dale and Maggie Warren garden in Topeka. The garden was around 1-2 acres with mostly wooded area but planted with day-lilies in sunlight areas, azaleas in rocky locations, a pond, winding stream and some 75 varieties of hostas along with hundreds of other shade plants. Paths wandered around the wooded area and one lead to the very back corner of the property where Dale had his "Man Cave", a fully stocked screened retreat complete with fire pit and outdoor privy.



Our IPHS Friends—be sure to visit them



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www.midwesthostasociety.org

Send your completed membership application and check (\$20 for 2 years, payable to MRHS) to:

Barb Schroeder
1819 Coventry Drive
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

American Hosta Society

For \$30 per year (\$34 for family) you can join the American Hosta Society because it gives you –

* The bi-yearly publication, THE HOSTA JOURNAL, probably one of the best publications you will receive about hostas. In addition, there is a yearly On-Line Journal for members.

* An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, buy plants from hosts dealers or the auction and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.



To learn more and join go to: www.americanhostasociety.org where you will find an application and mail it to the Membership Secretary listed.

July Hosta Tips—by Rob the Hosta Guy

Hostas prefer an evenly moist condition. And so as we enter the "dog days" of summer, the hosta care tips become shorter and shorter, but no less important. In fact we could sum it up this month in one word --- WATER. Moisture is critical at this point in the growing season as we encounter prolonged hot, dry spells. The reason why many of us have seen smaller hostas in recent years as compared to the prior year can be attributed to lack of adequate moisture.

Beware of the Drought

Most reference books on hostas will report that they are quite adaptable to drier shade conditions once they have become established. While this may be true, there is also a practical limit to most generalizations. Remember the back-to-back summer droughts of recent years?

During the growing season the hosta rhizome (or crown) is building reserves that will be used the following spring. Large amounts of water are also required to replace the natural transpiration that occurs with their large mass of foliage. When it encounters a prolonged spell of hot, dry weather, the rhizome will expend its own reserves in an attempt to support itself.

Ever wonder why a hosta appears OK at the end of the year, but reappears much smaller and/or less vigorous the following spring, or (even worse) fails to reappear altogether? This is most likely the result of a decline in the crown mass the previous summer due to a lack of water.

So what to do if we do encounter a summer with day upon day of hot temperatures and extended dry spells? Help your hostas avoid the stress by watering deeply at least once a week during the summer if you don't receive any help from Mother Nature. Optimum moisture for hostas is between one and one and a half inches of water per week during the growing season. This is especially important if your hostas receive significant levels of direct sun exposure.

Watering time is also important. Watering in the morning will help discourage both slugs and fungal activity. When watering blue leafed hostas, avoid overhead watering of the leaves which can slowly destroy the glaucous bloom (i.e. the waxy covering that makes a green hosta appear blue). Residual water droplets on any leaf which is followed by sun exposure can also result in leaf burn. Use of soaker hoses or drip irrigation work well in this regard.

Plant Markers

Many of you that have visited our gardens have asked about our plant markers. Actually there is nothing magic about the marker itself. They are available locally as well as by mail order. We mail order ours from Kincaid Gardens. Visit www.kincaidgardens.com for more info. They are stainless steel and will last forever.

The real trick though is in the labeling. We use a labeling unit made by Brother which is available at most office supply stores (Office Depot, Staples, etc). The Brother P-Touch series of labelers uses a laminated tape in which the printed type is sandwiched between two weatherproof layers. The tape has an adhesive on the back side that allows it to be attached to the plant marker. We use the clear, one inch wide tape which allows for three lines of print in a reasonable font size. We've had our markers in the garden over 20 years now and the labels still look brand new!

Rob Morko—The Hosta Guy

Editor: Barbara uses the same P-Touch labeler and laminated tape. She also uses a clear UV protection spray over the labels to seal the edges from moisture. Our markers are coated steel support for a plastic snap on label because we don't like seeing the metal markers in the winter.



For those of you who have visited the Schroeder garden you many have seen the new plant pot that we have. This is a terry cloth towel, soaked in concrete and placed upside down on a pot to harden. Barb has sprayed the color and 'Praying Hands' matches the side of the container. *Bob Scully photo*

Visit to Wade and Gatton

The American Hosta Society is moving forward with placing original photographs of all registered hostas on the AHS web site along with the original registration form. This is a 2+ year task that Barb and I, along with Barry Ankney, Penny Bocelli, Gail Alley and Josh Spece are working toward. To date there are some 5,628 Registered hostas with Gail handling the new registrations each year. Registration first started in 1969 and today there are around 100 new registrations per year. Each registration is supposed to furnish at least one photo of the plant and requirement are a clump, leaf and flower photo, but in years past only a clump was furnished and may times either no photo or they were lost over time. We have found some 850 registrations without a clump photo. Thus, the process is ongoing to at least get a photo of the plant and we have had other AHS members finding some in their collections and we have also been able to photograph some during garden walks.



H. 'Polly Bishop' Van Wade Collection

Last year we, along with Barry and Penny, made a trip to Wade and Gatton and along with Doug Beilstein photographed many of the "A" plants we were missing. On July 10th Barb and I made another trip to W&G as Van had an extensive collection of older hostas plus many for sale, some 250 we did not have photos of were noted as being somewhere on the property. Doug Beilstein spent the day with us on the 11th walking the grounds, checking each bed and hoop house, to search for those we were missing.



H. 'Jingle Bells' Van Wade Collection

Over the past years the gardens have become over grown not only with hostas growing bigger but with seedlings growing at random. In addition, the rain this year did not help – bigger is always better but in this case, many of the signs

New IPHS Members

We welcome the following new members to IPHS:

Karen Semple, Champaign, IL

Jeanette Weider, Champaign, IL

Linda Weber, Urbana, IL

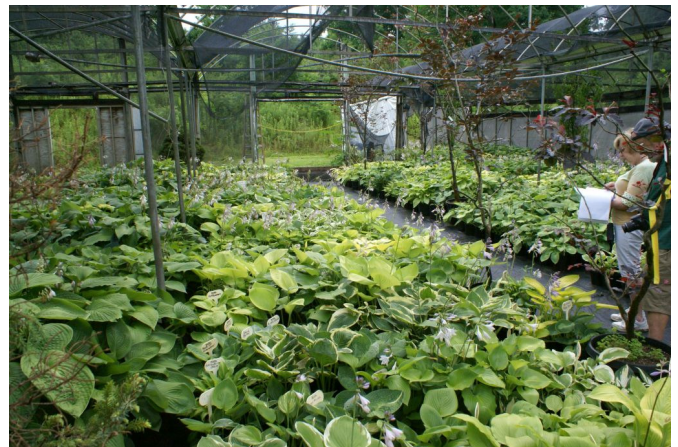
Randy Triplett, Monticello, IL

For new members, when you attend your first meeting check with Joyce Goode to pick up your Hosta Adventure published by the American Hosta Society.

were covered. The day became very warm, a storm rolled through briefly in the afternoon but after about 6 hours of walking through the gardens, up and down hills, we found some 90 that we did not have photos of.

The garden was not the same without Van there to explain every hosta and take you on a tour of the grounds. His son is now running the business and they intend to keep it open and staff is looking forward to clearing out many of the seedlings, getting plants identified again, the signs back up and readable and to continue his legacy of the nursery and hosta garden.

We also had a great time visiting with the Beilstein's and checking out Doug's progress in "hosta design". We came back with more hostas for Barbara to work on in her crosses and some for the 2018 auction at the MRHS convention in Peoria.



Part of the Van Wade private collection. On the left hybridized seedlings, right are many of Van's named hostas.

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

1819 Coventry Dr
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Check us out on Facebook and we
are on the Web at:
[http://
www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com](http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com)

Remarks by Rick—President

Here we are in July and where has the first 6 months of the year gone. In some ways Barb and I are glad June is past us. With the AHS Indianapolis convention, the C-U Master Gardener Garden Walk and the MRHS convention in Kansas City the month flew by.

First we, would like to thank all of the Master Gardeners that helped at our home in June for not only the garden walk but working a few days before to look for weeds, deadhead some plants and find the signs that were under the growing hostas. We especially want to thank Kathryn Fletcher and Joan Price, our garden co-chairs, for their help in getting the volunteers.

For those of you that have been on the walk before I am sure you appreciate the hard work not only you do but the volunteers do to guide visitors around the garden. We had over 950 visitors that beautiful Saturday. For us it is really fun talking with those that visit, answering questions (the same one every 10 minutes or so) and getting the compliments about your garden. I observed a couple that went to our bench in the northwest corner, sat there for some 10 minutes, and took in the whole garden experience. That is what it is all about—sharing your ideas with others and hoping that something in your garden will inspire them to add to their garden. I heard one comment

from a visitor of “why didn’t I think of that” and hopefully it shows up in their garden. Probably the most ask question was how do we over winter all of our 90+ pots. I was answering this question to two ladies, almost done and another walked up beside them. As I finished she ask the same question and the other two said “you should have been here 5 minutes ago”. Needless to say I answered again, and again and again.

The conventions are over for this year. At Indianapolis I was involved with the O’Donnell’s in the plant auction and that took much of our time. Then in Kansas City I was again, along with Floyd Rogers, involved in the auction. One more time, 2018 in Peoria.

This year the Webers, the O’Donnells, the Schroeders, the Isaacs, Mary Ann Metz, Diann Thoma, Susan Krumm, Ruth Walker and Karen Keith attended the Indy convention. To represent IPHS.

In Kansas City Mary Ann, the Schroeders, the O’Donnells, the Guardias (almost in their backyard) along with Diann Thoma, Ruth Walker, Susan Krumm and Karen Keith represented IPHS.

Rick
