

# 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:

Barb Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL 61822 Check out our Web Site:

http://  
www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com

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## May Meeting— Wednesday May 20th – 6:00 pm Via the Internet ZOOM—A Dial In Program "Trees for the Hosta Garden" by Ryan Pankau, Horticulture Educator with the University of Illinois

Ryan Pankau will discuss "Trees for the Hosta Garden". Have you wondered what tree to plant to replace the lovely one that used to shade your hosta garden? Are there trees that have less aggressive surface root systems that don't compete with your hostas for water and nutrients? Ryan will give us some tips on trees that "play nicely" with your hostas and "know how to share".

Ryan has been a Horticulture Educator with the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension since 2017. Prior to the Extension, he worked as a forester and an arborist. He studied Urban Forestry and Forest Resource Management at Southern Illinois University. He grew up in Monticello, Illinois and we are fortunate to have him back in the area.

To access the Zoom meeting copy this link:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/96916637720?pwd=enZ1VjNwV3F5WkpMUDlwSjlTUFlXUT09>

The Zoom meeting room will open at 5:30 and the program will start at 6pm. Ryan will take questions at the end of his presentation. Mike Weber will update us on any business that needs to be discussed. **Joyce Beitel will send out instructions a week prior to the meeting about how to access Zoom. Once you are connected to the Zoom meeting, we are asking everyone to mute his or her microphone until Ryan's presentation is completed. This will also prevent unavoidable background distractions, like barking dogs and spilled coffee.**

How often can you go to a meeting in your PJ's? So, sit back, put up your feet, fold your laundry and join us for what will be a very informative and practical program. If you are planning to expand your garden and add shade trees this is an important program to attend. As noted in the past, some trees actually prevent hostas from growing under them so this is the chance to learn what not to plant.

As with the April presentation you will be able to type in questions during the presentation and Joyce will read them to Ryan once he has completed his presentation.

## Officers and Committees

### Officers for 2019

**President—Mike Weber**  
**1st Vice President—Programs—Joyce Beitel**  
**2nd Vice President—Membership—Barb Schroeder**  
**Treasurer—Carol McClure**  
**Secretary—Kathy Robinson**  
**Past President—Rick Schroeder**  
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### Committee Chairs

U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber  
 Audit—Fritz Drasgow  
 Newsletter—Rick Schroeder  
 Historian—Jim O'Donnell  
 Public Relations—Liza Weber Schaffer  
 Hospitality—Karen Semple & Joan Price  
 Plant Raffle/Auction—Mike Weber

## 2020 Meeting Schedule

The following are the dates and locations for the meetings this year. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Program VP Joyce Beitel has lined up a great group of locations and programs for this year.

**June 17th—“Keeping our Backs Healthy in the Garden”** by Dr. Ray Alexander, DC, FASA, ATC - owner of Alexander Chiropractic. Meeting will be at the home Joyce Beitel, 2804 Robeson Pk Dr, Champaign. 6:00 PM with program starting at 6:30.

**June 10th to 13th—American Hosta Society “Hosta Vision 20/20” in Minneapolis, MN BECOMES “HOSTA VISION 22/22??” as the convention has been moved to June 2022.**

**July 12th— 10:00 AM—All day hosta event at Hornbakers Nursery in Princeton, Illinois featuring Bob Solberg and hosta specials. PRESENTLY RESERVATIONS ARE ON HOLD.**

**July 16th to 19th—Midwest Regional Hosta Society at Lisle, Illinois— CANCELED—MOVED TO 2021**

**July 22nd—“Daylilies and Conifers”** by Mike Weber at the home of Whit and Cathy Daily, 4 Moraine Ct. Champaign. 6:00 PM with program starting at 6:30 PM.

**August 2nd —2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon seminar in the U of I Arboretum Hosta Garden—public invited ??.**

**August 19th –5:30 PM—“Geometry, Japan & Garden Design”** by Susan Weber. At the home Larry Williams & Steve McQueen, 5 Lyndhurst Place. 5:30 PM with program starting at 6:00 PM.

**September 20th— Annual Banquet—“12 Months of Bulbs”** by Mary Ann Metz. Holiday Inn, 101 Trade Center Dr, Champaign. 1:00 PM Social , 1:30 Dinner with the program starting around 2:30. Details in August.

Hornbaker Gardens welcomes nationally known hosta expert

# Bob Solberg

of Green Hill Farm in North Carolina

## Sunday, July 12

Garden Center open 10 am to 5 pm



10 am to Noon  
Meet and Greet with Bob

11:30 to 12:30  
Lunch

1:00 pm  
“Growing Hostas in Containers, at Home and in Japan” presented by Bob Solberg

Free event, lunch \$10

**\$2 OFF**  
**ALL HOSTAS**

Registration required at [www.hornbakergardens.com/events](http://www.hornbakergardens.com/events)

Hosta Floral Arrangement Contest  
Door Prizes • Photo Contest



# HORNBAKER

GARDENS, Inc.

Princeton, Illinois 815-659-3282

## Schroeder—O'Donnell Plant Sale 1819 Coventry Drive—Champaign Saturday, May 23—8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Yes, the sale will go on almost as usual. We will ask that visitors keep distance apart during viewing and purchase and follow Illinois guidelines. There will be 200+ hostas and plants along with a number of our marked hostas from our garden available along with various pots, even some rocks from our garden will be for sale. As always, the garden will also be open during those hours.

## Mike's Remarks

If you haven't done so already, I hope many of you will take a stroll through the IPHS Display garden at the U. of I. Arboretum. I want to give a huge Thank You to Rick Schroeder, our faithful newsletter editor, for spending countless hours, almost single handedly, raking and bagging the leaves. It really looks great. I helped him for a few hours and, as usual, the garden continues to be a favorite spot for families and individuals to stroll through. Unfortunately, some stroll right through the planted areas flattening some of the Hosta. And for unknown reason plant I.D.'s get moved or even bent! Coming up with creative methods to encourage visitors to stay on the paths will be a priority.

Our May meeting will be another virtual presentation. Ryan Pankau will present a program on trees. The details are included in this newsletter. It will be the one he was going to do in April of 2019 before he had to cancel on short notice.

The Weber's were scheduled to be the hosts for this May meeting. Judging by the crowds at the garden centers that I have visited in the Central Illinois area, people want to get out and spend time and money in their yards due to the lock down. **Therefore, as a substitute for our not hosting the meeting, we are inviting IPHS members only to a Garden Open House of our garden on May 20 from 1 - 5 PM...rain or shine.** Each member may invite one guest. Hopefully it would be a guest who might want to become a member. Please observe the social distancing guidelines, and only come if you are feeling well.

**Another potential enticement to come by is a one time rejuvenation of my old plant sale. There will be a nice selection of mini to small Hosta which are hard to find at the local nurseries. In addition several unusual shade perennials such as Polygonatum 'Double Stuff', that Josh highlighted in his virtual presentation at the April meeting will be available. For the first time I will offer two late blooming daylilies, named 'Made Them Look' and 'Autumn Queen' that I have recently hybridized and introduced. There will be a few other surprises as well. NOTE...ALL proceeds will be donated to IPHS. Only checks or cash will be accepted. I hope to see many of you, either physically, virtually, OR BOTH on the 20th!**

Mike

**The Champaign—Urbana Master Gardeners Garden Walk scheduled for Saturday June 20th has been canceled**

## Hosta of the Year

*From the April issue of The Hosta Leaf, Shades of Green Hosta Society of Rochester, MH – “Because the April 2 meeting was canceled, our guest speaker, Glenn Herold, graciously agreed to submit an article outlining the history of Hosta of the Year, his meeting topic.”*

**by Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI**

<https://theCottageGardener53012.wordpress.com>  
(Editor – check this out, great blog)

The Hosta of the Year program was established in 1996 by the American Hosta Growers' Association (AHGA) to promote the growing of hostas and to help homeowners select quality varieties from the many on the market. The HOY is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Selected varieties must be readily available in sufficient supply, cost no more than \$15 in the year selected, and be good performers throughout the country. Starting with H. 'So Sweet' in 1996 up to and including H. 'Dancing Queen' in 2020, there have been 25 years of selection.

Because this is the silver anniversary year, let's look back at the HOY history.

The exact number is unknown, but some estimate there are over 7,000 named hostas. Where do they all come from? Some come from hybridization or breeding programs. Usually the hybridizer has a goal in mind and selects parents that are most likely to pass on the desired characteristics to the progeny. Two or more cultivars or species are used and the hybridizer knows the identity of the parents. The resulting progeny may be released as is or further used in the breeding program.

Other cultivars are a result of mutation or sporting of an existing plant. This may occur in the wild, in your garden, or in a lab during the process of propagating a cultivar. Because of the high volume of plants produced through tissue culture, many new cultivars and variations of cultivars have come out of these labs. Often, they start out as unstable chimeras, but through division and patience may stabilize and show improvement and variation from the parent.

A third source of new plants is from seedling variation. Some species are naturally more stable than others and show little variation in their seedlings. But breeders may self-pollinate a species to bring out recessive genes. This is often done in agriculture. A fourth source of cultivars is obtained through open pollination. Here the female parent is known, because that is the plant you collected the seeds from, but the male pollinator is not. Just like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates, you don't know what you'll get until you bite into it, or in the case of hostas, you germinate the seed.

Let's look at a few of the hostas of the year. Think of them in terms of characteristics inherited from their par-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Hosta Meetings and Conventions—2020

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.

The Northern Illinois Hosta Society will host the 2020 annual MRHS convention Chicago Style on July 15-17th at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lisle/ Naperville, Illinois. For schedule and reservation form go to [www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml](http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml) **CANCELED—PLANNING FOR JULY 8 to 10th, 2021 AT SAME HOTEL.**

Also in 2020 The Minneapolis Hosta Society will host the annual AHS convention, Hosta Vision 2020, in Minneapolis area June 10th to 13th. More details, including schedule, are available at [www.HostaVision2020.com](http://www.HostaVision2020.com). **DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE CONVENTION, AND IN COOPERATION WITH THE HOTEL, TO MOVE THE CONVENTION TO JUNE 2022.**

In 2021 the AHS convention, “Hosta Smitten in the Mitten” is sponsored by the West Michigan HS and Southwest Michigan HS in Kalamazoo, MI on June 16th to 19th.

## The Danger of Advance Roundup

The Dangers of Imazapic and Imazapyr — AKA Enhanced Roundup

By Libby Greanya

The scientist who discovered and named the Emerald Ash Borer in the United States after its introduction to southeastern Michigan in 2002 – Dr. David Roberts, PhD – spoke at the Jackson Men’s Garden Club lecture series on April 21, 2017 about the dangers of Imazapic and Imazapyr, AKA Enhanced Roundup, etc.

In 1970, scientist John Franz discovered the molecule glyphosate, which would become the active ingredient in Monsanto’s original Roundup herbicide formula. Glyphosate is non-selective, meaning it will kill all plants on contact, whereas previously Monsanto was selling selective herbicides that left crops unharmed. These initial formulas were problematic because they had a tendency to be washed into streams and ground water, affecting fish and wildlife. But glyphosate products were more environmentally friendly than previous formulas because they decomposed into natural products like carbon dioxide, ammonia, and phosphoric acid, therefore it was safer to humans and wildlife. So began Roundup’s glyphosate formulas rule of the herbicide market in the late-1970s.

Now that the patent on Roundup has expired, there is a proliferation of “new” products by Monsanto and many

other herbicide companies --- a new formula that is even more powerful than glyphosate-based Roundup, but much deadlier to non-target plants like trees, grass, and other ornamentals. Imazapic or imazapyr is a water-soluble herbicide which can run off to non-target species. And guess how long the product “Roundup 365” lasts? That’s right, these formulas don’t break down for a year, sterilizing the soil!

Roundup has been hiding this chemical in a lot of their products, but many other companies are utilizing it too. Keep an eye out for Barrier, Ortho Groundclear, Sahara, Mohave, Arsenal, Assault, etc. Always read labels!

Amazingly the instructions usually say to apply these chemicals to driveways, sidewalks, etc. where it can run off and kill or negatively impact your grass, shrubs, and trees! Dr. Roberts showed many examples of collateral chemical damage people have accidentally caused using these products.

Even “professionals” are making the mistake of using products with imazapic or imazapyr near trees and shrubs, because the directions are misleading. Some of the tree damage was a hundred yards from the source of the spray (the sidewalk weeds). Repeat – this herbicide is water soluble = run off effects!



A tragic, expensive and totally avoidable mistake. Look in your herbicide collection for products that contain Imazapic or Imazapyr. Spread the word – if your neighbor is using it, your plants are at risk from run-off. Note: plain Roundup (glyphosate) is not water soluble and not long lasting, so it is considered to be safer.

*From the April 2020 Michigan Society Newsletter “Hosta Happenings”*



Two plants of Van Wade’s hosta ‘American Angel’, will be available at our plant sale May 23rd. This is a blue-green version of ‘Guardian Angel’ that holds its colors all year whereas ‘Guardian Angel’ will tend to show mostly green.

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

**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 are 3 to 4 on-line newsletters per year.

\* An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, buy plants from hosta 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](http://www.americanhostasociety.org) where you will find an application and mail it to the Membership Secretary listed.



**HORNBAKER GARDENS, Inc.**  
Princeton, Illinois  
Garden Center • Arboretum • Botanical Gardens  
Open House & Hosta Walk on June 12-13-14  
Hosta Expert Bob Solberg on July 12  
Artisan Market on September 19

Garden Center: April 10 – October 10  
(815) 659-3282 [hornbakergardens.com](http://hornbakergardens.com)

**Fox Hosta Farm Visit—Saturday May 16th**

Some of you have indicated you will be going with us in a car-pool to Fox Hosta Farm, Lowell, Indiana, this coming Saturday the 16th. We will depart from the U of I Extension Office parking lot on Country Fair Drive around 7:30 AM. If you have not let me know that you plan to go an email to [rickschro1@gmail.com](mailto:rickschro1@gmail.com) or phone call to **217-552-6514** would be appreciated. This is an invitation only event for Fox Farm, address is 1868 W 203rd Ave, Lowell, IN so enter into your GPS or phone for directions. For your information Indiana requirements are for mask and separation but they have opened up business and many restaurants in that state, Sunrise is open for business.



**MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY**

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

**MRHS Membership  
Kathy Rustad  
4011 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Rochester, MN 55901**

Along with Name, Address, Phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email [MRHS.hosta@gmail.com](mailto:MRHS.hosta@gmail.com).



Registered hosta 'Miss Mitzi', named after one of our Bichon's, will be available for sale at our May 23rd plant sale.

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ents, and also the source of the plant, as described above. H. 'So Sweet' was the first plant selected, in 1996. It is a cross between H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' and an unnamed seedling. Knowing that the flowers are fragrant, *Hosta plantaginea* must be part of the breeding lineage, since it is the only species with fragrant flowers. The flowers are also white, another characteristic of *H. plantaginea*. H. 'Patriot' followed as HOY in 1997. It is a tissue culture sport of H. 'Francee' with a much wider white margin and darker green interior. It is also the first recognized tetraploid sport. H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' itself was selected in 1998. Kevin Vaughn bred it in 1982 with a cross of H. 'Fascination' and H. 'Fragrant Summer.' Another plant with H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' in its genes is H. 'Guacamole,' registered by Bob Solberg in 1994 and selected as the HOY in 2002. Still a very popular hosta, it has a shiny golden yellow center, dark green edge, and fragrant flowers. From a tissue culture sport of H. 'Guacamole' came H. 'Stained Glass,' selected as the HOY in 2006. It has a much brighter gold center and a dark green margin. From this breeding line you can see that quality often begets quality species *Hosta nakaiana*. With its great slug resistance and small size, it quickly gained in popularity and resulted in the mini hosta craze and "Mouse" tsunami!

Though H. 'Halcyon' is in the lineage of many excellent hostas, including H. 'June,' the HOY in 2001, it has never received that honor. It may be a common plant but is still one of the best blue hostas in the garden. An additional HOY that originated as a sport of H. 'Halcyon' is the 2010 selection, H. 'First Frost.' The margin of this plant changes from yellow in the spring to white in the summer, while maintaining a powder blue center.

Perhaps the most unique HOY selection is H. 'Praying Hands,' selected in 2011. Though its parentage is unknown, it is likely a 'Fortunei' type. The upright habit and folded leaves make it one of the most recognizable hostas in the garden.

A fine example of a successful breeding program is H. 'Brother Stephan,' the 2017 HOY bred by Olga Petryszyn. The corrugated leaves come from both of its parents, H. 'King Tut' and H. 'Mildred Seaver.' The yellow center is a product of the gold-leaved H. 'King Tut.' On the other hand, the 2019 selection, H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print,' is the product of two unknown seedlings that Mary Chastain crossed and registered in 2006. The fiery yellow center makes this hosta very unique and recognizable in the garden.

The 2020 selection, H. 'Dancing Queen,' displays one of my favorite hosta characteristics, a wavy piecrust margin, inherited from its parent H. 'Split Personality.' Unlike the parent, it is bright yellow in color.

Which hostas will be selected HOY over the next 25 years? No doubt, some have not yet been introduced.

(Continued on page 7)

## Hosta Name Challenge

In the January issue of the *Hosta Happenings* from the Michigan Hosta Society they published a 100 "Mega-Match Challenge" to match the name of a hosta with a saying. They gave 100 clues and 100 hosta names, and you need to match up the two. Well, we are going to make it harder. Here are the answers to last month—did you get them all correct? Below are the 10 clues this month with a list of some 27 names and we will publish the answer next month. We will do 10 clues each month through the summer.

Answers to last month questions:

1. *Elijah's transport to heaven—'Whirlwind'*
2. *Card game known as 21—'Blackjack'*
3. *Add vowels -Frst Frst - 'First Frost'*
4. *Nickname for Bill Clinton—'Slick Willie'*
5. *Opposite of before noon - 'After Midnight'*
6. *Separates watershed to Atlanta and Pacific - 'Continental Divide'*
7. *Impenetrable to high velocity projectiles—'Bulletproof'*
8. *Freckled—'Sun Kissed'*
9. *Declared by the winning team—'Victory'*
10. *A month with 30 days—'June'*

The Next Group:

1. Roof Window
2. A precious metal, during a bad day on Wall Street
3. "Beer", in Spanish
4. Menu item at Denny's
5. Not quite, but..
6. Strange; odd
7. Produced when a baby cries
8. Condiments for coffee
9. A green fountain
10. Famous Egyptian pharaoh

Can you match any of these with the clue?

Almos	Arctic Blast	
Bizarre	Cerveza	Gold Standard
Gold Drop	Grand Slam	Guacamole
Ice Cream	Jade Cascade	
King Tut	Lemon Lime	
Niagara Falls	Riptide	Skylight
Sugar and Cream	Tiny Tears	World Cup



## Bob Solberg Early Summer Tips

Summer (Period of bloom and seed set) June-July-August

The time of bloom in hosta species and their cultivars varies from late May or June to September. A particular hosta will normally bloom once for about 3 weeks during the summer, producing a flower scape from the growing bud that just finished producing the flushes of leaves. The scape has a number of lily-like flowers that are open for one day only and are bee pollinated. (*H. plantaginea* opens in the evening and may be moth pollinated.) Seed pods are formed from fertilized ovaries at the base of the pistil and swell in size. Black, single-winged seeds are usually ripe in 6-8 weeks.

**Labeling:** Replace the labels that the squirrels have pulled up.

**Light:** This is the brightest and more importantly, hottest light of the year. The sun is at its maximum height in the sky and often beds that were bathed in shade in early May are now in full sun. Hostas can tolerate direct light but they hate heat! If leaf margins begin to brown, it may be time to move that hosta to a cooler spot in the garden. On the other hand, year by year shade gardens become shadier. Consider removing a branch here or there during the summer to create spotlights of bright light in the garden. Maybe even consider removing an entire tree, but that should probably wait until winter.

**Nutrients:** Blooming hostas still need nutrients to maintain their foliage and produce seeds but not a high nitrogen diet. If you are liquid feeding weekly, continue if there is ample rain. In times of drought reduce feeding to every other week. Discontinue any supplemental foliar feeding; hosta leaves have expanded to their maximum by now. Remember if it doesn't rain, then your slow release fertilizer is not being released. Irrigation may be a good idea.

**Pests:** If it turns dry, the deer will show up looking for some lush hosta foliage full of water. Spray deer repellent every 3 weeks or more often and rotate your favorite brands. Leave the electric fence on at all times. Be on the look out for the symptoms of foliar nematodes, those nasty brown streaks. If you have a major problem, remove the most highly infected hostas and water less and feed less. Starve the hostas and stress the worms. Quarantine your garden. If you have a minor issue, remove infected hostas and all the ones touching them. A few years of this may eliminate the problem almost completely.

**Protection:** Watch for petiole rot. This fungus attacks the base of hosta petioles, secreting a substance that eats through the plant tissue causing the leaves to fall on the ground. This usually occurs in the first hot dry weather of the summer. Pull back mulch. Treat with 10% bleach solution immediately and retreat if necessary. There

are also fungicides (e.g. Terrachlor) that can be applied. Other fungi may attack the hosta leaves, especially in hot, humid climates in wet summers. Apply fungicides (e.g. Daconil) as a preventative in late June every 2 weeks as necessary. Rotate fungicides.

**Propagation:** Divide hostas as the heat of summer passes. **August is the best time to drastically divide and plant or pot hostas.** Try to give your hostas 6 weeks before the first frost to establish new roots in their new home.

**Water:** Like nutrients, a hosta's demands for water are reduced after their leaves are mature. Increased temperatures however, increase the transpiration rate, the rate at which the water is pulled out of the hosta leaves, requiring more water to replace it. Transpiration affects trees to an even greater degree as they pump water up and out of the garden soil. In hot weather sometimes keeping your hostas full of water all day long is a constant battle. Continue the fight. Dry soil may cause your hostas to go heat dormant or worse, dry rot at the bottom of the crown. In heavily shaded gardens, irrigation during the day can cool those hot leaves.

**Fun!** Cut some scapes after a couple of flowers have opened and bring them inside to enjoy for two or more weeks. Cut and remove the other scapes when 75% of the flowers have opened, unless you wish to save the seeds. Take in a hosta convention, regional events are inexpensive and allow plenty of time to socialize. Visit other local gardens and get some new ideas. Remember to bring a hosta along as a gift. Begin to plant new acquisitions.

*Editor: Also, as the hosta scape produces seeds plan to harvest them when they start to open up and in November plant them like you would spring seeds to grow some hostas of your own. You will be surprised at the "new" hosta you have for your garden.*

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*(Continued from page 6)*

Others will come from mutations of current favorites. Looking into my crystal ball, I see several with red petioles and even red leaves. Will we see more minis, or will the HOY selections continue to be dominated by medium and large hostas? Solid green hostas are not favorites, but how about the queen of them all, H. 'Empress Wu'?

Each year I look forward to finding out what the newest selection is, and can't wait to see what is in store over the next 25 years.



## *Illinois Prairie Hosta Society*

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1819 Coventry Dr  
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

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

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### **Remarks by Rick**

Today, as I write these comments, is May 8th and the forecast for tonight is for a temperature around freezing, maybe as low as 29 degrees. So what do we do with the hostas and plants that are up?

For us we covered a few of the areas of sale plants, for others, will, they need to find their own blanket and pull it up over their leaves. This happens every so many years, has for a long time and will probably continue.

A few years back I was co-chair of the tropical section of the Idea Garden. We stored the plants in the U of I greenhouse over the winter and around the first of May moved them to the garden. Two years in a row we moved the big plants on a Friday, around this same date, and moved the rest on the following Monday. Each Saturday night the frost/freeze came in. The banana, hibiscus and others took a big hit, lost a lot of leaves but over time came out of it. The same will hold true for your hostas. You will see leaves that get frozen, many times the lower ones as the cold air will lay low, so cut some of them off and many will continue to produce leaves, after all, this is spring. Many of the trees will also get hit, especially the Japanese maples. I hope you were able to cover yours, or like us, bring a couple into the garage as they are in pots.

With all the rain this year I am sure you have noted your hostas and other plants are really looking good. We

always note, hostas like water, and spring is the proof. However, once they have tasted a drink this spring they will want to continue to have the taste of water, so continue to give them an inch of water a week. They will appreciate your effort.

Mike noted that I have worked in the hosta garden. Due to the current state of the virus in Illinois we cannot setup work sessions at the garden. Hopefully this will change in either June or July. I decided I need to check on them (Mike had also been keeping watch) and many were forcing their way up through the mat of leaves and twigs. I, with Mike's help, removed most of the leaves from around the plants as the wet weather we were starting to have mold in some areas. We have decided not to mulch this year as there is a good cover from previous years. In addition Susan will be looking into how we can define the gardens better to reduce the number of visitors that actually walk through the beds bending the markers and walking on plants. This year I found that probably 40% of the markers have been bent over, some considerably.

I hope all of you attend the Zoom seminar that Joyce has setup, she has done a great job keeping our meetings going so we can garden in our jammys.

Rick (rickschro1@gmail.com)