

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 March Spring 2013 Meeting

IPHS Membership

Single membership is \$10 per year,
Family membership is \$15 per year.

Monthly meeting, March to Sep-
tember

Contact:

Carol McClure, 1413 S. Western
Ave, Champaign, IL 61821

Check out our Web Site:

[http://
www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com](http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com)

First Spring Meeting – Saturday, March 30, 2013 9:00 AM until 12:00+ Noon at the U of I Extension Office, 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign . Made in the Shade Gardens plant sale 9:00 to 10:00 AM, meeting 10:00 to 10:30.

Program at 10:30 AM - “Tissue Culture for Dummies ... Like Me” by Rob Mortko of Made in the Shade Gardens, Olathe, Kansas

Tissue culture can be intimidating to some folks. Others may have heard a previous TC presentation that was completely boring. Rob’s commitment is to present TC in a new light – not as science so much as an art form. There will be plenty of humor as he showcases both his successes and failures along with a healthy dose of humility.

Many of us have heard of tissue culture and may even appreciate that most new hosta cultivars are propagated via TC. But what is tissue culture and how does it really work? Rob’s background in chemistry and engineering coupled with his interest in hostas kindled a longtime curiosity in tissue culture. Rob’s recent retirement from his engineering career has afforded him the opportunity

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Remarks by Ruth Walker

Welcome and come on spring! Even though our winter wasn’t that bad, I am soooo happy that we are on the short end of it. (Just got the weather report and it looks like we are in for a rain, ice and snow today, yuck but we do need the moisture). I’ve been looking at a lot of magazines and catalogues for the latest new selections. You know the ones we gardeners just can’t live without. Garden Gate says there are over 23 “must-haves” for 2013. Just 23? The only hosta on their list is Rainbow’s End. I actually bought this one when we were on our yearly bus trip and stopped by Hornbaker’s Nursery. It was one of many hostas that a lot of us bought that day. The “hosta of the year” for 2013 is Rain Forest – Sunrise, which would be a great addition to all our gardens. In another maga-

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Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new member to IPHS:

Jana Waite, 1906 Hemlock Dr, Champaign, IL 61821

John Bodensteiner, 16979 East, 2705 N Road, Danville, IL 61835

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

We Welcome back

Laura Hartman, 700 W Grand Ave, St. Joseph, IL 61873

Officers and Committees

Officers for 2013

President—Ruth Walker

1st Vice President—Programs—Carolyn Purcell

2nd Vice President—Membership—Carol McClure

Treasurer—Barb Schroeder

Secretary—Nancy Gill

Past President—Siska Kallio

Board Member at Large—Nancy Voss

Committee Chairs

Allerton Hosta Garden—Karen Meyer, Susan Weber & Mary Ann Metz

U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber

Audit—Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality—Barb Socha

Newsletter—Rick Schroeder

Philanthropic—Susan Weber

Plant Raffle—Liza Weber

Annual Plant Sale—Susan Krumm

Publicity—Barb Schroeder

Annual Trip—Rick Schroeder

2013 Meeting Schedule

April 13, 2013 – Allerton Park—General Meeting –9:30 AM – **History of Allerton** plus optional tour- speaker Derek Peterson – work period afterward

May 11, 2013 – IPHS Annual Hosta Sale, Lincoln Square Village, Urbana from 8 to Noon along with 5 other plant groups.

May 25, 2013 – Potluck - Sharon Lash – 10 AM speaker Linda Haas from Tree Star Hollow (treestar farm @gmail. Com) Sugar Grove, IL near Aurora - **Fairy Gardens**

June 8 & 9, 2013 – IPHS Bus Trip to Wisconsin (Signup form will be sent with March issue and available at the March meeting)

June 13 – 15, 2013 American Hosta Society Convention in Milwaukee, WI

June 29, 2013 – General Meeting – Garden tour – Laura Hartman, 10 AM Speaker Steve Schuren Schuren Nursery – **New Shrubs in the Market**

July 10, 2013 – General Meeting 6 PM – **Garden tours** - Kevin Cagle - Brenda Mills **Dessert night**

July 11-13 – Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Lisle, IL

August 15, 2013 – Thursday evening General Meeting – Danville Gardens speaker Linda Campbell – **Fall Planters Demonstration** – Location TBA

September 22, 2013 – Annual Banquet – 1 PM Biaggis Ristorante Italiano – **Enhancing the Garden's Visual Appeal** by member Carolyn Haines

Spring is Coming!
The Schroeder seedlings are growing!



Vole Control

Those attending the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific meeting the weekend of January 19th always learn new and exciting facts about gardening. If you don't attend you should.

At this year's meeting Jeff Miller of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm, a location we will visit on our June bus trip, had a presentation on hostas and how he gardens. One pest he has problems, like many gardeners, is voles. His solution to cutting down the population is using TOMCAT rodent control.

The following is from the manufacturer:

TOMCAT rodent control products are developed, tested and manufactured in state-of-the-art research laboratories and manufacturing facilities in Madison, Wisconsin. Every step of production – from product development to manufacturing – is closely monitored to ensure you of the highest quality products available.



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products - our guarantee that you'll find the perfect solution to whatever rodent problem you encounter.

TOMCAT's complete range of rodent control products is available in large retail chain stores, as well as locally owned independent businesses, throughout the United States.

Jeff purchases quart canning jars at sales and uses them to hold the TOMCAT block of poison. He gets the canning jar lids, cuts a hole in one side, at least the size of a quarter, and lays the jar in the garden on its side with the hole down. The hole is the size that a vole can enter, eat some of the poison and then return to their burrow. With a clear jar he can check the status of the block and replace as necessary. It also is an indicator of elimination of the

voles in the area when the block no longer is attacked.

Jeff has some 2 acres of hostas so it takes a lot of jars around the area but he also is able to move them as part of the garden is "cleaned out" of the rodents. With the poison in the jar there is no concern for pets or other small animals getting to the poison. TOMCAT is available at all of the box stores and most hardware stores.

Summer Alert- Beware of the Drought

by Rob Mortko

Most reference books on hosta will report that they are quite adaptable to dry shade conditions once they have become established. While this may be true, there is also a practical limit to most generalizations.

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 the large leaves. If (as we typically do in the Midwest) encounter a prolonged spell of hot, dry weather, the rhizome will spend reserves to support the plant.

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

So what to do if we do encounter a typical Kansas City summer with day upon day of hot temperatures and extended dry spells? Avoid the stress by watering deeply at least once a week during the

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summer if we don't receive any help from Mother Nature. Optimum moisture is reported 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. Use of soaker hoses works well. 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.

Editor: You may ask why run this article now. First, Rob will be our speaker at this month's meeting and I wanted to give you a "heads up" on Rob. Second, depending on rain this spring (if like last year we will be in trouble early) I wanted to remind you to start watering early.

AHS 2013 CONVENTION—June 13-15

As many of you are aware when we put on the Midwest Regional Hosta Society here in 2009 there is a lot of work to be done. Everyone stepped forward and we had a great time hosting the group. An AHS convention is similar, usually 1-2 days longer and about 100+ more attendees. After the Nashville convention was planned there were no more volunteers for 2013

In 2011, with no convention slated for 2013, Tom Micheletti of Chicago and Jack Barta Milwaukee area stepped forward and offered to organize the meeting in Milwaukee. They have had a very short time to get this one organized but the both have moved forward and have a great convention

planned. There will be some changes to the normal convention structure.

The meeting has been shortened by one day. Next, the two decided to reduce costs and bus transportation to the gardens would not be used. One of the results of these changes is a registration fee of \$139 – about 60% of the usual fee. They also negotiated a good hotel rate of \$105 per night (including breakfast). This really improves the affordability of attending the meeting, something attendees have complained about. The convention will have all of the normal activities, clinics, leaf show, auction, dinners and a chance to meet old and new friends. Barb and I have volunteered to be a part of the auction again this year.

So how do we get to the gardens, some nine in all? Tom and Jack are setting up a system to use GPS; MapQuest with directions attached and also have information for those that have smart phones. Tom and I have both attended model railroad events where the visits are setup for auto travel instead of busses and it works very well. You will now be able to visit part or all of the gardens, stay as long as you want, or don't want and even stop for lunch/coffee (and bathrooms) at any time during the time the gardens are open. In addition, as some have said, check out the nursery you usually pass on the bus (everyone shouts they want to stop) and maybe find and buy the plant you have been looking for. Better yet, find the nursery's in the Milwaukee area and have their locations planned on your route to a garden.

We hope you plan to attend this year as it is close, costs less and will give you a chance to buy the hosta you are looking for. Also remember, if you can't make the AHS convention the MRHS convention will be in Lisle in June. I will make a convention presentation at our first meeting.

Rick

Our IPHS Friends—be sure to visit them



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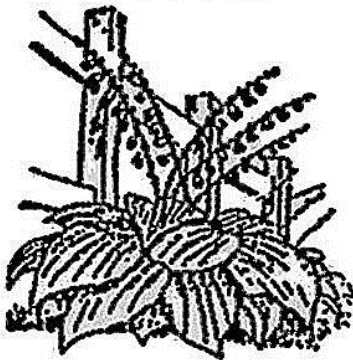
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Bylaw changes for IPHS to be voted for Amendment on March 2013

Article 2 - Officers, Directors and Executive Board

ORIGINAL:

Section 1. The officers of the society shall include a President, First Vice President/Programs, Second Vice President/Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary, each elected by majority vote of members present at annual meeting, for a term of two years, which may be extended for a term of two years only with majority approval of the membership, but in no instance may an officer remain in office for a period in excess of four consecutive years. Terms will be staggered. The President, Second Vice President/Membership, and Treasurer will be elected for two years, and the First Vice President/Programs and Secretary will be elected the alternate year.

- (a) Candidates for the office of President previously must have served as an officer or board member.
- (b) Candidates for all other offices must have been, at least, a member in good standing for 6 months preceding the date of the election.

SECTION 1 REVISED TO READ:

Section 1. The officers of the society shall include a President, First Vice President/Programs, Second Vice President/Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary, each elected by majority vote of members present at annual meeting, for a term of two years, which may be extended for a term of two years only with majority approval of the membership **at the annual meeting**, but in no instance may an officer remain in office for a period in excess of four consecutive years. Terms will be staggered. The President, Second Vice President/Membership, and Treasurer will be elected for two years, and the First Vice President/Programs and Secretary will be elected the alternate year.

- (a) Candidates for the office of President previously must have served as an officer, **board member or committee chair**.
- (b) Candidates for all other offices must have been, at least, a member in good standing for **one (1) year** preceding the date of the election.

ORIGINAL:

Section 2.

- (a) Candidates for board membership must be a society member in good standing for a period of not less than 6 months prior to the election.

SECTION 2 REVISED TO READ:

- (a) Candidates for board membership must be a society member in good standing for a period of not less than **one (1) year** prior to the election.

ARTICLE 3 – Duties and Responsibilities

ORIGINAL:

Section 8. The treasurer will hold the funds of the organization and pay them out as provided below. The treasurer shall: make a report to the officers and board members monthly and an annual audit by the society auditing committee; and be responsible for the depositing of annual dues. Funds are to be expended to promote hosta. Funds from the treasury are not authorized to provide food or alcoholic beverages, [with the exception of reimbursement of up to \$150.00 for meat for the annual potluck} but reimbursement for non-alcoholic beverage items will be allowed. Reimbursement requests of up to and including \$500.00 requires prior authorization of one additional, unrelated executive board member. Reimbursement requests must be submitted to the treasurer with the necessary authorizations.

SECTION 8 REVISED TO READ:

Section 8. The treasurer will hold the funds of the organization and pay them out as provided below. The treasurer shall: make a report to the officers and board members monthly and an annual audit by the society auditing committee; and be responsible for the depositing of annual dues. Funds are to be expended to promote hosta. Funds from the treasury are not authorized to provide food or alcoholic beverages, [with the exception of reimbursement of up to \$150.00 for meat for the annual potluck} but reimbursement for non-alcoholic beverage items will be allowed. Reimbursement requests of up to and including \$500.00 requires prior authorization **of the President or when President is unavailable one additional**, unrelated executive board member. Reimbursement requests must be submitted to the treasurer with the necessary authorizations.

Article 5 - CommitteesORIGINAL:Section 3.

(a) There will be a minimum of three newsletters a year sent to all general members. The members are encouraged to contribute information that will be of interest to all members. Highlights of executive board meetings will be included. It will be the President's prerogative to approve or disapprove any article for inclusion in the newsletter.

SECTION 3a REVISED TO READ:

(a) There will be a minimum of three newsletters a year sent to all general members. The members are encouraged to contribute information that will be of interest to all members. **DELETE (Highlights of executive board meetings will be included.)** It will be the President's prerogative to approve or disapprove any article for inclusion in the newsletter.

Article 6 - MeetingsORIGINAL:

Section 2. General membership meetings will be established by the board for each calendar year and published in the first newsletter of the year, no later than March. The meetings will be held monthly March through October (October usually being the annual meeting). Any deviation from this schedule must be approved by the executive board and announced to the membership 15 days prior to the rescheduled meeting.

SECTION 2 REVISED TO READ:

Section 2. General membership meetings will be established by the board for each calendar year and published in the first newsletter of the year, no later than March. The meetings will be held monthly March through **September (September** usually being the annual meeting). Any deviation from this schedule must be approved by the executive board and announced to the membership 15 days prior to the rescheduled meeting.

2013 Membership Renewal

The 2013 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 Carol McClure. 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: Carol McClure, 1413 S. Western Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821

Ruth's Comments continued

(Continued from page 1)

zine, Country Gardens, I was taken back by the beauty of a garden with not one but two waterfalls, a fishpond, and a woodland garden with massive rocks. Wow! I can hear Bill, my husband saying, "Get real!" and rolling his eyes when I respond, "It wouldn't take that much time or effort or money!"

Fine Gardening magazine just arrived in the mail, I think Bill hid it for a week, and on the cover was the question, "How sustainable is your garden?" My question is "How sustainable are the two gardeners



taking care of my garden???"

The editor went on to ask how anyone could be against sustainability? It simply means, "We (and the plants) can keep up!" The opposite of sustainability means that the system, namely

Bill and I (and the plants), will eventually break down! One of the things I love about gardening is the fact it is ever changing and we as gardeners must be willing to adapt to these changes. Sun-too much, too little, rain-too much, not enough, drought like last year, and then there are the weeds and the wind, and the...! But we cannot lose sight of how much pleasure we receive from just being in the garden.

I pray we all have the sustainability to get things done and when the editor of FG Magazine states, "If in doubt take a nap in the hammock," then we should do just that! So I'm looking forward to hanging the hammock, looking up at the blue sky, and dreaming of a weed free garden, great weather, just the right amount of rain, and good friends to enjoy it all. That is as soon as this freezing weather and 45mph winds decides to blow itself out, and we finally wake up to a beautiful spring morning!

With all of that said, this year's programs look great! Carolyn Purcell has done a great job lining up special gardens and insightful speakers. I look forward to seeing you all, hearing about your gardens, and enjoying getting our hands dirty together!

Happy gardening,

Ruth Walker

P.S. Don't forget to sign up for the upcoming bus trip. Rick always picks out great gardens and special plant buying opportunities for us. Go Rick!

March meeting continued

(Continued from page 1)

to start-up his own tissue culture lab where he has had to address many of these same questions. The presentation will include a some times humorous and oftentimes humbling behind the scenes look at what goes on in a hosta TC lab.

Prior to Rob's program he will have hostas available for sale in the meeting room as well as after the program. As you will note in this newsletter there will be some changes to the IPHS Bylaws to be voted on along with other business items for the coming year.

The business meeting will start at 10:00 AM with the program starting around 10:30.

Come join us for a kickoff of the gardening season.



Wisconsin Two Day Trip—June 8 & 9.

First stop – hostas and lunch: Land of the Giants Hosta Farm is owned and operated by Jeff and Penny Miller in Milton, WI. “We started with a shade garden with about 25 different hosta varieties. I became addicted and kept buying more and more. We currently have over 220,000 hostas planted in the ground with over 2,100 different varieties of hostas. Many of which are rare and unique plants that are not readily available at local nurseries but eagerly sought after by devoted hosta and shade lovers nationwide. The factory that I worked for shut down and I had enough seniority to retire so we have enjoyed the gardens as our place of employment. What a great job! (Jeff also grows some 100,000 seedlings each year and has a new yellow mouse ears on the market.) Check their web site: www.landofthegiantshostafarm.com

When you sign up for the trip you **must include your Email address** as I will send you a hosta order form. Go to Jeff’s site and if you find hostas you want fill out the form, send it to me and 3 weeks before we leave I will forward to Jeff. He does have some dug for sale but will not have time to dig and pot a hosta for you in the time we are there. He will have your purchase marked for pickup and payment.

Second Stop – all hostas: Heading 20 miles east we will visit - “Al’s Auto Body started over 20 years ago as a hobby with my Father, who was more of a mechanic. The Arboretum (around 3 acres of hostas under trees) was officially added 5 years ago, but really started at the same time. I just didn’t realize it. We are the only Arboretum and Botanical Garden outside a municipality in Walworth County. Improvement is our top priority. If it’s not the latest in painting equipment and technology, it’s improving our landscaping, offering fresh ideas and examples of plants to our customers. At least 175 hosta varieties are for sale including large and mature specimen plants (he may not have time to dig a special hosta for you)... All proceeds go toward maintaining the Arboretum. Companion perennials will also be

on display and for sale.” Check out Al’s place at - <http://www.alsautobodyandarboretum.com>

Sunday Shopping: Early Sunday morning we will visit the Flower Factory located about 25 miles northwest of Janesville. They carry a huge selection of perennials including daylilies, hostas grasses, pond plants and rock garden plants. There are 4 acres of hoop houses with almost any plant you can think of along with a train running through the rock garden area. I should have catalogues prior to our trip. Check out their web site at www.theflowerfactorynursery.com

Sunday garden and lunch: Rotary Botanical Gardens, a 20-acre non-profit botanic garden in Janesville, is home to many dramatic and themed gardens. Some have an international focus, such as the Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Also included are less formally structured gardens including one of very few Fern and Moss gardens recognized by the Hardy Fern Foundation in the United States, as well as Shade, Prairie and Woodland Gardens and the AHS Hosta Display Garden. Check their web site at www.rotarygardens.org

Private Garden: When we depart Janesville we will stop and visit a private garden in Rockford on the way back to Champaign. The M & J Garden is a garden with hundreds of flowers with a garden train that runs around the backyard track. In addition there are 21 fountains & 63 birdhouses in this outstanding garden.

The reservation form will be sent separate from this newsletter and it will be available at the March meeting. Our hotel will be the Hampton Inn on the north side of Janesville and all information for hotel reservations will be on the reservation form. I have only 20 rooms set aside with the IPHS rate so if going find a partner and reserve early. Cost for the trip will be \$90 per person that also includes both box lunches. Hotel and other meals are on your own.

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

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

Spring is coming—really, and the Friendship Plant

By the time you read this Spring will be arriving and once again Barb and I will quit quilting and model railroading respectively and head to the back yard – well, almost quit. This winter was much more favorable to plants than last; however, they still need moisture.

Sandy Mason's January homeowners' article in the N-G noted the Perennial Plant of the Year is Variegated Solomon's Seal. We, along with other hosta lovers in our area, have had this plant for several years. If your hosta garden does not have some let me know, we will give you a couple of plants to add to your shade garden.

Hosta, the friendship plant.

Since starting the IPHS in 2004 Barbara and I have met a lot of new friends and all the result of the "friendship plant". We all know that this one plant has changed our lives more than maybe any other plant you can have.

All of our lives change daily, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. Recently we lost friend and member Bill Cotter, husband of Bev Cotter and father of member Carol Mathis. Bill and I met with the Master Gardener group "Morning Glory's" each Wednesday at Panera's and I will miss hearing his stories.

Last fall we noted two members were heading to Kansas City to be closer to their new grandson. Deb and Gary put their house up for sale in February and in 3 days it sold. By the time you read this they will be moved to Kansas City but do plan on attending our March meeting as they prepare to leave Champaign. We will miss our friends and they have entrusted us with their H 'Tattoo', which now resides in the backyard near a Gargoyle we purchased from the Guardia's, which we have named "Gary".

Rick