

# 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 Spring Meeting—March 29

March 29 – Sunday – Champaign County Extension Auditorium,  
801 N. Country Fair Drive in Champaign.

**1:00 Includes a potluck brunch with dishes made by you!**

**Kick off Your 2015 Gardening Mojo!**

Come for an afternoon of favorite fellowship and gardening inspiration, not to mention delicious luncheon dishes and desserts! Rick Schroeder will show photos highlighting ideas from gardens seen at AHS and MRHS conventions. He wants to inspire you to attend conventions, and the garden tours are wonderful experiences. (Where have you been?) Mike Weber, another of our extraordinary gardeners, will then show some of his favorite garden photos. Since he's been around a number of blocks and more than once, they're bound to be full of great ideas. We can be sure he'll get his patter on just for us! Finally, Diann Thoma will show photos from your gardens. (You sent her 2-3 favorites, didn't you?) Members are welcomed to comment on their own or others' photos. Afterwards, we'll vote on who's hosting next year's meetings! (Just kidding.)

### IPHS Membership

Single membership is \$15 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)

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### IPHS to Host 2016 MRHS Mini-Convention—July 2016

Each year the Midwest Regional Hosta Society has a summer convention sponsored by one of the local societies within the region, which ranges from Illinois to Nebraska and from Wisconsin and Minnesota to Missouri. This year the convention will be Dubuque, Iowa. We hosted the convention in 2009 with the I-Hotel being the headquarters and some 120 hosta lovers attending. Beyond 2015 no one has come forward to host a convention. Several groups have been asked and only one is considering hosting, but that is 2-3 years away.

Recently at the MRHS Board meeting, held at the WSM in Lisle in January, the subject came up again and we were ask if we would consider. The first response was no unless some requirements were changed due to lack of lead time. We determined that a leaf show was not required, a driving convention would be acceptable again, members and officers of the MRHS would help not only in the planning but such events as the auction and seminars. Contact was made with as many of the IPHS Board members as could be contacted on that

## Officers and Committees

### Officers for 2015

**President—Ruth Walker**  
**1st Vice President—Programs—Diann Thoma**  
**2nd Vice President—Membership—Carol McClure**  
**Treasurer—Barb Schroeder**  
**Secretary—Holly O'Donnell**  
**Past President—Siska Kallio**  
**Board Member at Large—Patricia Stoffel**  
**Committee Chairs**  
 U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber  
 Audit—Fritz Drasgow  
 Hospitality—Pat Stoffel  
 Newsletter—Rick Schroeder  
 Philanthropic—Susan Weber  
 Plant Raffle—Liza Weber  
 Annual Plant Sale—Rick Schroeder  
 Publicity— Barb Schroeder  
 Annual Trip—Rick Schroeder

## How Much Mulch is Enough?

*( This article first appeared in the May 2011 newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Hosta Society.)*

Most of us use some form of mulch to control weeds, retain moisture and keep the soil cooler during our long hot summers. The American Hosta Society recommends not applying more than 2-3 inches of mulch. Too much can lead to vole problems by providing a covering that is warm and easy to tunnel through. Keep the mulch away from the petioles to avoid rot and other diseases. But how do I know how much to buy? Use the following calculations.

Length in feet x Width in feet = Total square feet

Length in feet x Width in feet x Depth in feet = Total cubic feet

The most commonly sold bags contain about 2 cubic feet 27 cubic feet—One cubic yard One cubic yard will fill roughly 1/2 a pick-up truck bed.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2015 Meeting Schedule

**March 29, Sunday– 1:00 PM, Potluck Lunch at the U of I Extension Office on Country Fair Drive. Mike Weber will present photos of outstanding gardens in Michigan, Rick will highlight gardens from past AHS and Midwest Conventions and Diann will feature garden photos from members.**

**April 26, Sunday– 2:00 PM at the home of Mike and Susan Weber. Diann will present a program on Epicedium's and maybe Hellebores.**

**May 9, Saturday– 8:00 – 1:00 PM – IPHS Plant Sale along with the Rick and Barb Schroeder's plant sale at their home, 1819 Coventry Drive.**

**May 30, Saturday– 2:00 PM – Home of Kate Hunter, 510 W. Oregon, Urbana, 25 Years in the Life of a Plant Collector.**

**June 13, Saturday – pending bus trip to three Peoria gardens and Hornbakers**

**June 17 – 20 – AHS Convention in North Carolina**

**June 27, Saturday– 10:00 AM – home of Margy Palmisano with program by Janet Macunovich, "Simplify Your Garden to Save Time, Money and Defy Age"**

**July 9 – 11 – MRHS Convention in Dubuque, Iowa**

**July 26, Sunday– 5:00 PM – home of Rick and Barb Schroeder with Potluck dinner and program on "Making Hosta Babies".**

**August 30, Sunday- 2:00 PM – Ice Cream Social at the Hosta Display Garden in the U of I Arboretum. Susan Weber on the "Inside Scoop on the Hosta Display Garden".**

**September, Sunday – 1:00 – 3:30 I Hotel - Annual meeting and Jill Selinger of Chicago Botanic Garden.**

(Continued from page 2)

Example: A hosta bed 10 feet by 12 feet with a 3-inch layer of mulch

$10 \times 12 \times .25 = 30$  cubic feet

Divide by 2 = 15 2-cubic-foot bags or

Divide by 3 = 10 3-cubic-foot bags

One cubic yard will cover 106 square feet at a depth of 2 inches.

One cubic yard will cover 108 square feet at a depth of 3 inches.

One 2-cubic-foot bag will cover 7 or 8 square feet at 3 inch depth.

One 3-cubic-foot bag will cover 10 square feet at a depth of 2 inches

*From the Mid-South Hosta Society "Hosta Hotline"*

## Who Was Florence Shaw?

by Harold McDonell, The Georgia Hosta Society

For many years, controversy has swirled in the hosta world regarding the real origins of the late Paul Aden's hostas. From the late 1970's on into the mid-1990's, Mr. Aden introduced and promoted many great hostas that helped make the genus the superstar shade garden plant that it is today. Such hostas as 'Sum and Substance', 'Blue Angel', 'Zounds', 'Sun Power', 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Golden Waffles', 'Love Pat', 'Great Expectations' and many dozens of others were routinely attributed to his hybridizing prowess.

Until 1997, registration of hostas did not require that an originator's (hybridizer's) name be provided, just the registrant's name. Mr. Aden took advantage of that and properly listed himself as the person registering the hostas he introduced. He also certainly led people to believe that he was the hybridizer although he was careful never to definitively say he was. As his hostas gained immense popularity, he gained fame. Everyone in the hosta world knew who Paul Aden was and most admired him immensely.

However, there were a few knowledgeable hostaphiles who did not share that admiration and rumors abounded over the years as to the origin of his cultivars.

Mr. Aden gardened on a relatively small lot on Long Island, New York which likely could not have supported a hybridizing program capable of producing all the fantastic hostas that he registered and introduced. Also, his reluctance to share parentage information and his demonstrated lack of basic hosta hybridizing knowledge led many to question just where the cultivars really originated. Over the years, the controversy grew as a small but dedicated group of hostaphiles continued to challenge Mr. Aden's vague explanations. Finally in 2012, AHS took on the challenge to find some definitive answers with the formation of the AHS Cultivar Origination Commission to study the origins of Aden hostas. Commission members already knew the likely origins of some of his cultivars such as H. 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Fragrant Blue', 'Pizzaz', and 'So Sweet' which have been attributed to Kevin Vaughn by many for years. It was common knowledge that Mr. Aden had helped himself to a number of Kevin's seedlings from his mother's garden while he was away in college. As the commission began digging further into the origins of other Aden plants, another name popped up. The name was Florence Shaw.



H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'

Just who was Florence Shaw? Mrs. Shaw and her husband lived on a multi-acre estate called Birchwood in Weston, Massachusetts, an exclusive suburb of Boston. She was a consummate plant lover and, being a woman of means, she was able to amass an impressive collection of rare plants including very rare (at the time) hosta species and cultivars.

According to the commission's findings, she conducted an extensive hosta hybridization program unknown to all but a very few. She became quite ill in 1973 and died in 1974. According to people who knew of her hybridizing program, she produced many stunning seedlings but she registered none herself. A few of them were registered and attributed to her by AHS after her death. Most of these carried the Birchwood prefix in the names. Some of her very best seedlings were taken without permission from her garden during her lingering illness and possibly after her death. Soon afterwards, many plants looking very similar to her most prized seedlings appeared in the Aden garden. As a result of information obtained during its investigation, the commission was able to definitively determine that 16 cultivars that Aden had named, registered, and introduced were indeed Florence Shaw's originations.

Among these were such blockbusters as H. 'Big Mama', 'Big Daddy', 'Blue Angel', 'Blue Cadet', 'Blue Umbrellas', 'Fascination', 'Golden Waffles', 'Love Pat', 'Sum and Substance', and 'Zounds'. The commission further found that many other Aden introductions were likely also the originations of Mrs. Shaw but it did not have enough evidence to support having them listed under her name as the originator.

So now we know. Florence Shaw was one of the foremost early hybridizers of hostas in the 20th century and perhaps the greatest. Certainly she was the greatest hybridizer that no one knew about – until now! Ironically, the commission found that, were it not for Paul Aden acquiring, registering, introducing, and promoting her plants, many of them would probably have been lost forever. For that, credit is due him. However, Mrs. Shaw's magnificent contributions to the genus *Hosta*, which Mr. Aden worked so diligently to credit to himself only, have finally been brought to light and, with that, a great wrong has now been righted.

For more detailed information about Florence Shaw, Paul Aden, Kevin Vaughn and the commission's findings, please check out:

1. Hosta Library web site – "The Paul Aden Story" by Bill Meyer
2. AHS 2012 Online Journal – "Paul Aden, International Man of Mystery" by Bill Meyer
3. AHS 2012 Online Journal – "Origins of Paul Aden's Registrations" by AHS Cultivar Origination Commission
4. AHS 2013 Online Journal – "Summing Up: Origin of H. 'Sum and Substance'" by Warren Pollack
5. AHS 2013 Online Journal – "Origins of Paul Aden's Registrations – Final Report" by AHS Cultivar Origination Commission

## 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](http://www.americanhostasociety.org) where you will find an application and mail it to the Membership Secretary listed.



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



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**2015 Membership Renewals**

The 2015 membership is due by the end of March if you want your name listed in the annual member list and receive newsletters. Also, please remember to update your membership form with your email address and any other changes you may have made the past year. We look forward to seeing you again at the March meeting. Please send your membership renewal to Carol McClure, 1413 S. Western Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821



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## Annual Bus Trip—Peoria area Gardens

A number of members have asked when another bus trip to hosta gardens will happen as they have really enjoyed the trips. Well, last year I was contacted by Shelly Bladini of the Central Illinois Hosta Society in Peoria about their planned garden walk (they hold a city wide area bi-annual garden walk to raise funds) for the summer of 2015. She asked if we would be interested in bringing a group over and I said yes, pending the number and locations of gardens. In 2012 we visited the area and one garden was not accessible by bus and that is a major criteria in setting up a trip.

Recently she contacted me with at least five gardens and after looking at the locations I have decided to plan for a trip to the Peoria area on **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**. I am planning on two gardens in the Morton area, one that we visited in 2005 and was an outstanding garden, and one that is within 6 blocks. I am working toward a visit to Hoerr Nursery on the northwest side of town and hopefully do lunch there along with a buying visit. From there we will visit Shelly's garden in Dunlap, about 2 miles away, and then head north to our favorite nursery, Hornbakers.

There will be a \$10 fee per person for the garden visits as this is part of their fundraiser and that will be included in the trip price (which will also include lunch). Once I have final plans in place with Peoria Coach and Hoerr's Nursery I will be sending out reservation forms.

If you remember, the last planned trip was canceled due to lack of required number of participants. I had several come up after the trip was canceled and said they really wanted to go but had just not responded yet. Well, there will be a deadline noted on the form and if 45 are not signed up that date I will cancel again. So put this date aside, it is the week before the Master Gardener Garden Walk and the AHS Convention in North Carolina, but take one day and plan to go.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Saturday and the agreement was to go ahead and plan to host in 2016 with reduced activities.

At the March meeting Barb Schroeder will cover in more detail the plans for 2016. We will not have a leaf show, members will drive to gardens as has been the case in recent conventions (both MRHS and AHS), there will be no raffle held by IPHS, it will be a basic 2 ½ day event to cut costs and others outside IPHS have volunteered to help. We will also have around 6 vendors, all mainly hostas, to minimize the space needed. There will be no "convention hostas" but those that's register will get a \$5 certificate to purchase one of their choice at a vendor.

To date we have agreement with the Hawthorn Hotel, our first choice in 2009 but space became an issue and we moved to the I-Hotel. They have agreed on cost of rooms, much lower than many past conventions, we have the space we need and agreement on cost for dinners on Friday and Saturday along with auction on Friday night. Bob Solberg, Don Dean and Mark Zilis have come forward to help and also get plants for the auction with Floyd Rogers and Rick Schroeder running the auction.

Some members of IPHS have already stepped forward to help and we are asking other members to volunteer to help during the planning but also during the convention. We will need gardens and would like to have some 6-10 available for the planned 75-100 visitors we expect. Mike Weber and Rick will be asking for garden volunteers.

In June 2016 the St. Louis Hosta Society will be hosting the American Hosta Society Convention. We fully understand that our meeting will only be some 3 weeks later. In addition many of you that are Master Gardeners have also been involved in the local garden walk the same time as the St. Louis convention. The Dixie Hosta Society will be having their convention in Raleigh this year during the AHS meeting, however, St. Louis preferred that MRHS did not hold one at the same time in St. Louis, and we understand the reasons. Thus we felt important not to miss a year of meetings and events for MRHS members that might not attend the AHS convention.

## AHS 2015 Convention—North Carolina

Nancy and Bob Solberg would like to invite you to come visit beautiful North Carolina next June and have nothing but fun at the 2015 American Hosta Society National Convention. It will be held in Raleigh, NC, June 18-20 at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown. Our theme is "Back to the Future". We plan to combine the friendliness and simplicity of the conventions in the 90's while focusing on the future of hostas and hosta gardening. The Scientific Session will be a view of the best unnamed seedlings from hybridizers all over the world. There will be a containerized competition for seedlings and sports in the Hosta Show also, and the tour gardens will demonstrate the latest in hosta container gardening which is taking the South by storm. And yes, we have buses for everyone, because it is "greener" and for our tours they just make good sense.

Schedule 2015 AHS Convention dates are Thursday- Saturday, June 18-20, 2015 with optional tours on your own on Wednesday, June 17. See the "Schedule" page for event details. Registration for the Convention is \$230. The deadline for registration is May 1, 2015. Go to the Registration page for details on how to register for the 2015 AHS Convention. Hotel Hilton North Raleigh North/Midtown, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, 919-872-2323. Special Double Room Rate \$105.00. Go to the Hotel page for more information how to make your hotel reservation and to link to the hotel website.

Tour Gardens On Thursday evening we will visit Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanical Gardens. The nursery and extensive gardens are renowned for their diversity of rare plant material including many new hybrids produced as part of their research mission. On Friday, we will visit 5 local residential gardens including David Spain's nationally known moss garden. On Friday our lunch stop will be at the North Carolina State Farmers Market in Raleigh. In addition to the wide selection of produce available from North Carolina, (it should be peach season), there are many interesting plants for sale also. You will enjoy a gourmet box lunch and

## Hosta Conventions—2015 +

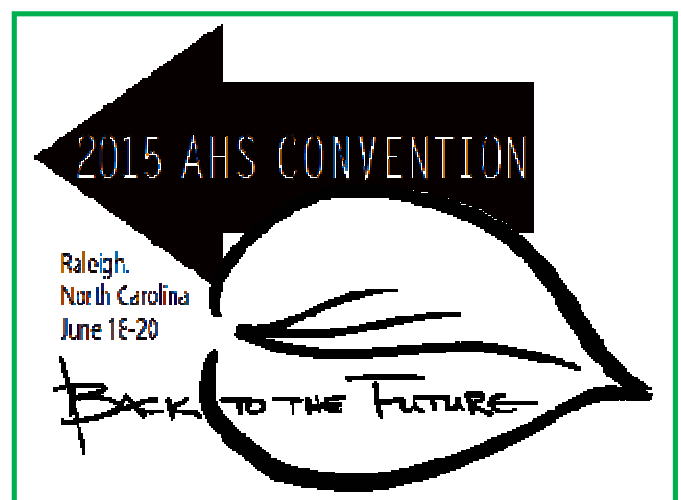
**Be sure to put these dates on your calendar so you can attend as these conventions are relative close to us. 2015 AHS Convention will be in North Carolina on June 18-20<sup>th</sup> and the 2015 MRHS Convention will be in Dubuque, Iowa on July 9-11<sup>th</sup>.**

**The 2016 AHS Convention will be in St. Louis with the 2017 convention in Indianapolis.**

then snack your way around the market testing the free samples. On Saturday morning, the buses will take you to Green Hill Farm in Franklinton, owned by Nancy and Bob Solberg, which is one of the leading sources of new hostas.

See the "Tour Gardens" page to see pictures of all the tour gardens.

Bob plans to have an old fashion Scientific Session, Thursday afternoon, rather than a series of lectures. The topic will be the "Future of Hostas" and hosta hybridizers everywhere are invited to send Bob Solberg, (HostaBob@gmail.com) a photo of their three best unnamed seedlings along with a description, parentage, etc. They will then be presented in a PowerPoint presentation as a group, alphabetized by hybridizer. Hybridizers who attend the convention will be allowed to answer questions as time allows.



## *Illinois Prairie Hosta Society*

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1819 Coventry Dr  
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

Phone: 217-552-6514

Email: rickschro1@gmail.com

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

### Remarks by Rick

This past winter we tried something new as a social event. The second Saturday of the month, starting in December, we met IPHS members at the Urbana Garden Restaurant on North Lincoln Avenue for breakfast. This gave us a chance to keep up with hosta/gardening friends and gave us an opportunity to just sit and talk about families, travels, snow, cold, and the coming season of gardening.

By now, if you have read the front part of the newsletter, you have learned that the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society will host the Midwest Regional Hosta Society annual meeting in the summer of 2016 – not that far away. Our last hosting was in 2009 so many of you participated in that fun event. As you read this newsletter we are still in the process of getting final plans together and of course, will be asking for volunteers. We have a number of volunteers from outside our society but we will need your help. Mike Weber and I are asking for volunteer gardens for the Saturday, and maybe Friday, garden tours. Expecting between 80 and 100 hosta/garden lovers we

hope to have at least 10 gardens open in the twin cities area. This will be a driving tour for visitors, no busses this time. In 2009 the complaints I received from visitors was there was too little time on the bus between gardens (we had 5 gardens within 5 minutes of each other). I know some of you have not been interested in opening your garden for the Master Gardener walk, which has some 1000 visitors, but I hope you will consider opening your garden for our planned 100 hosta visitors in 2016.

You will also note in this issue that I am planning a bus trip to Peoria area gardens. The Central Illinois Hosta Society will be holding their bi-annual garden walk on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and we have been invited to attend. This is their fundraising event and thus we will be charged \$10 per person for attending. The reservation form will go out in April, and remember, if not signed up by the end of May the trip will be canceled.

Rick