

# 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:

Joyce Goode, PO Box 4, Mansfield, IL 61854 Check out our Web Site:

<http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com>

### Inside this issue:

Upcoming Meeting Notice	1
AHS Convention	2
Officers and Committees	2
2018 Meeting Dates	2
Collaborative Effort	3
Plant Sale—May Meeting	4
Future Conventions	4
New IPHS Members	4
Our IPHS Friends	5
Hosta Tips—the Hosta Guys	6
Hosta of the Year	7
Rick's Remarks	8

**April 24, 2018—Tuesday—6:00 PM—Monthly Meeting  
Country Arbors Nursery -1742 County Road 1400 N  
(Windsor Road extended east), Urbana.**

**Program by owner Shane Cultra**

**“Shade tolerant Shrubs and Perennials for all seasons”**

Most if not all of us have a shade yard, or maybe want to add shade so you can grow more hostas. Shane will discuss shrubs and perennials that do well in shade. In addition Country Arbors has a wide selection of understory trees and tall trees that will provide additional shade in your yard. This will be an outdoor meeting so if we are lucky and no snow (who would believe that this month we set records for snow fall) be sure to dress warm.

In addition Shane is offering discounts to those that attend the meeting—note you must attend, discounts don't count the next day. They will offer a 50% off price of any one perennial or annuals under \$25 and then 10% off everything in the store. What a bargain. There probably won't be a lot of annuals available yet but this is time to stock up on your companion plants for the garden.

We will have water available. Since this will be outdoor meeting bring a lawn chair. We may be walking around the garden center to various locations but if he decides to setup in one location a chair will be handy. No cookies or snacks this time unless you really want to bring something for the group.

Country Arbors is located 1.4 miles east of Illinois Route 130.

**Saturday May 19th—IPHS Plant Auction 2:00 to 4:00 PM. At the home of Tony & Penny Soskin 2702 Salisbury Court in Champaign.**



## Officers and Committees

### Officers for 2018

**President—Rick Schroeder**  
**1st Vice President—Programs—Mary Munoz**  
**2nd Vice President—Membership—Joyce Goode**  
**Treasurer—Carol McClure**  
**Secretary—Kathy Robinson**  
**Past President—Ruth Walker**  
**Board Member at Large—Steve Mullen**

**Committee Chairs**  
 U of I Hosta Garden—Susan Weber  
 Audit—Fritz Drasgow  
 Hospitality— Barb Schroeder  
 Newsletter—Rick Schroeder  
 Historian—Jim O'Donnell  
 Plant Raffle/Auction—Mike Weber



The Delaware Valley Hosta Society is pleased to host the 2018 Convention, marking the 50th anniversary of both the founding of the AHS and its first convention, which took place near Philadelphia. Philadelphia, rich in history, artistic culture, and legendary sports, has also been declared America's Garden Capital. Topping the crown of garden gems is the fabulous Longwood

Gardens, with its completely renovated Main Fountain Garden and shady Hillside Garden. As a special treat to celebrate the 50th anniversary, we are pleased to offer the opportunity for *everyone to visit Longwood for a fantastic fountain show!*

We are invited to a convention like no other, June 20-23, 2018, at the DoubleTree Hotel Philadelphia-Valley Forge (King of Prussia, PA). Events include tours of seven private gardens, a visit to Longwood Gardens for their spectacular fountain show, educational sessions, competitions, vendors and the auction. Those registering for the convention will receive a volcano-sized hosta called 'The Big Five-oh', in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the AHS, hybridized by Charlie Seaver of the Philadelphia area for the convention.

<https://www.ahs2018philly.org>

## 2018 Meeting Schedule

Our new VP Programs, Mary Munoz, started right after elections last year to plan the 2018 meetings and programs. Her results are as follows:

**May 2nd, Wednesday—U of I Arboretum Hosta Garden—clean-up and mulch-spreading, with a rain date of Thursday, May 3**

May 19th, Saturday—1:00 PM at the home of Tony & Penny Soskin. Plants arrive after 1:00, review of plants 2-2:45 and starting 2:45 PM Mike Weber will conduct a plant auction to raise funds for the U of I Arboretum Hosta Garden. (See write up about the event in this newsletter by Mike Weber for procedure and plant needs.)

June 20 to 23rd—AHS 50th Anniversary convention in Philadelphia, PA. Check the web site for all details.

June 30th, Sunday 6:00 PM—Potluck at the home of Dan and Mary Ann Metz. Mary Ann will talk about her garden and other gardening ideas. IPHS will furnish table service and water.

July 12 to 14th - MRHS Convention at Peoria, Paradise Hotel and Casino sponsored by the Central Illinois Hosta Society. Members of the IPHS are helping the Peoria group with this convention.

July 28th, Saturday, 2:00 PM - U of I Pollinarium located just off Windsor Road, Leslie Deen will be speaking about the importance of pollinator plants.

August 21st, Tuesday, 6:30 PM— U of I Arboretum Hosta Garden, Ice Cream Social and tour of arboretum gardens by Diane Anderson. Check out the hosta garden and the new garden behind the Idea Garden.

September 26th, Sunday, 1:00 PM —Annual Meeting and Dinner at Biaggi's on South Neil. Program at 2:30 PM by Don Dean, past AHS President, along with an auction of special originator stock Don Dean plants to those attending. If you don't have a Don Dean plant in your garden, in your President's opinion you don't have a complete hosta garden.

**Monthly—Meet and Greet at the U of I Arboretum Hosta Garden. Bring your coffee or tea and meet us at the hosta garden on Saturday morning June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, and October 13 at 9:30 AM to discuss gardening, hostas and do some minor cleanup of sticks around the plants and remove dead leaves and spent flower scapes. Who knows, we might even have some donuts. Parking free on Lincoln Avenue.**

## Hosta Garden Notes from Susan Weber

By Susan Weber

With snow in the forecast, it's hard to think about scheduling spring chores at our IPHS Garden at the Arboretum, but it's time for me to pull myself out of my "winter blues" and get the job done. I hope you can join us for some of these dates!

An important time that many visitors will be in our area of the garden will be U of I Commencement on Saturday, May 12. **Therefore, I would like to schedule clean-up and mulch-spreading for Wednesday, May 2, with a rain date of Thursday, May 3.** Please let me know if you plan to attend on that important day. I will get Diane to drop the chain for us.

I know that some people who would like to come can only come on Saturdays, so I am going to schedule "meet at the garden and do what needs to be done" for the second Saturday of every month during the summer. That would be a drop-in from 8 to 10 where we could visit and do whatever little chores need to be tended to. **The dates for that "meet and greet" would be the Saturdays of June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, and October 13.** Since some of us are already in the habit of going to the second Saturday breakfasts, I'm hoping that's a good time for people. I chose 8 because it might be hot, but feel free to drop in when you can for however long you can. Parking will be free on Lincoln Avenue on Saturdays.

I'm guessing that putting the garden to bed will occur at the end of October or the beginning of November, but with the way the weather has been behaving, who knows? We will decide that date as we see what unfolds this summer.

I ran into Dale from the Arboretum at the grocery store a couple of weeks ago. He said the crew that had picked up some sticks in the garden, and that only the Hellebores were up. Mike says a few spring bulbs were up, but we're not sure how they fared after the weather this last week. Please drop by the garden if you have a chance. It's almost time for things to start "popping."

Hope to see you at the meetings and in the IPHS Garden at the Arboretum. Thanks to all of you for your help and encouraging words!

Susan



About a half hour after starting our 2:00 PM meeting at the extension office the light snow moved in. By the time we left around 3:30 there was 2-4 inches on the ground.



So what do you do when your speaker, coming from Growing Grounds in Bloomington, can't make a meeting due to a snow storm? Improvise. We pulled two tables together, plugged in the coffee pot and set up a question/answer session. One hour later the 20 members and guests that attended commented they all learned something that day. Thanks to Mike Weber, Rick Schroeder and others fielding many of the questions that came up. We plan to reschedule our speaker at a later date.

Photos by Jim O'Connell. Both he and Holly had clear roads coming to the meeting but ice and snow heading back with cars in the ditch off I-57.



**\$5.00 OFF a  
\$25 SALE**  
**Any Combination of  
Plants, Seeds or Bulbs**

Illinois Prairie  
Hosta Society

EXP DATE 04/30/2018

**FARMTOWN**  
— ILLINI FS — lawn and garden center  
1509 E. UNIVERSITY AVE URBANA, IL 217-384-8308

## IPHS Plant Sale—May Meeting

### Mike Weber—auctioneer

If the weather warms enough to coax our Hosta and companion perennials out of the ground by May 19, we will have an auction at Tony Soskin's residence. We plan to have most of the sale items listed and catalogued in either the May newsletter or in a separate Email BEFORE the auction so that you and your gardening friends can peruse the offering ahead of the event.



PLEASE let either Rick or I know if you plan to donate and bring those items so that we can get them placed on the list and in the sale order. This will allow us to have an organized and fast paced auction. We need to know the name of the plant or item you are bringing and for the hostas we would like to know about how many crowns are in the pot. We welcome conifers and any other plant that you may not want in your garden (no weeds please). We will take garden art and other non plant items, however, we don't want used tools—those items are to be given away at a meeting.

NOTE: The auction is open to the public. The \$5 dollar per meeting attendance fee for non-members WILL BE WAIVED for this event. And as always please contact me at mweber@cfs-inc.net for questions. Or text me at 217-649-2099.



*H* 'Miss Mitzi', a Doug Beilstein seedling, has been registered by the Schroeder's in honor of their Bichon Frise, is in tissue culture and a limited number of plants should be available in 2019

## 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. For updates, the complete schedule, cancellation policies, Hosta Show rules, banquet option details and more hotel information, visit

<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml>.

Have questions? Email [camorris2017@gmail.com](mailto:camorris2017@gmail.com)

## Schroeder—O'Donnell Plant Sale

May 26, 2018

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

1819 Coventry Drive

## New IPHS Members

We welcome the following new members to IPHS:

Jae Gerst, 1402 Heather Drive, Mahomet, IL

Rita Weisiger, 1014 W Green St, Champaign, 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.

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



**Avalon Acres**  
**Hostas and More**  
www.aahostas.com  
11125 E. 1125th Ave. • Effingham, IL 62401  
Denny & Alicia Ricketts

- \*Featuring Over 550 Varieties of Hosta
- \*Low Prices/High Quality
- \*Free Hosta with every order
- \*Plants are guaranteed to be HVX Free
- \*We are members of the American Hosta Society, American Hosta Growers Association, Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, and the University of Illinois Master Gardeners.

We are primarily mail order, visits by appointment only please  
Phone: 1-217-663-2347 or 217-536-9443  
Email: Sales@aahostas.com

**NATURE'S FINEST, INC**  
3009 W. Old Church Road  
Champaign, IL 61822

**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 and 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 hosts dealers or the auction and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.

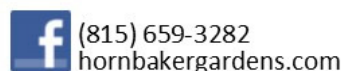


To learn more and join go to: [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org) where you will find an application and mail it to the Membership Secretary listed.



Princeton, Illinois  
Botanical Gardens • Arboretum • Garden Center  
April 10 – October 10

Open House & Hosta Walk on June 8-9-10



**Midwest Regional Hosta Society**  
*sweet deal* for **FIRST TIME** members

**Join MRHS** (\$20 for 2 yr) and receive a **\$10.00** voucher toward a one-time qualifying purchase from any one of our Midwest Region partner vendors/retailers/mail order nurseries (<http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/Vendors.shtml>). MRHS members also receive semi-annual newsletters and member registration rates for the Annual Convention. Sign up now, first time members in time for them to cash in their \$10.00 voucher this spring!  
[www.midwesthostasociety.org](http://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

**FARMTOWN**   
— ILLINI FS — *lawn and garden center*

1509 E. UNIVERSITY AVE URBANA, IL 217-384-8308

## April Hosta Tips—from the Hosta Guys

### April - a Month of Transition

April is a month of transition for gardeners where we can see daytime high temperatures in the 80's, and yet see nighttime low temperatures back down in the mid (or even low) 20's. And we can even experience both extremes in the same week. While hostas are root hardy, the new spring foliage needs protection from any late spring frosts. Forecasted temperatures even in the mid 30's warrant precautionary measures. Short term protection from freezing temperatures can be provided by mounding mulch over the emerging clump, or by using inverted plastic plant containers or frost blankets. Just make sure you remove the cover the next morning when temperatures rebound above freezing. Use your local average last freeze date as a guide for planting. For example in KC our average last freeze date is around April 15th. What that means is there is still a 50/50 chance of a freeze for the following couple of weeks. No matter your location, we recommend waiting to plant hostas until after your average last freeze date.

Keep an eye on the amount of spring rainfall you receive. If you start to hit a dry spell, you'll want to get out the hose - especially as the hosta foliage begins to emerge. Lack of water during this critical stage will result in stunted hosta foliage for the balance of the season. By late April or early May most hosta cultivars are up and going into a period of rapid foliage growth where they will need a constant source of moisture. During the growing season hostas will optimally take 1" to 1.5" of moisture per week. *Editor: Protect from frost, here in our area it around May 10th.*

### Slug Control

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when dealing with slugs. Remember that you will rarely see the slugs at work because they feed at night leaving their characteristic small holes in the foliage. So what to do? Act now before the new spring foliage emerges. Mid-March is the time when slug eggs begin to hatch. While there are a number of "home remedies" for slug control (egg shells, coarse sand, beer traps, ammonia sprays, etc), the most efficient method is granular slug bait which can be found at garden centers. Most of these baits contain metaldehyde which can be harmful to pets and children. However many brands are now incorporating Bitrex - a very bitter tasting compound to humans and pets. An alternative is iron phosphate bait which is non-toxic (except to the slugs). In



shutterstock - 209640886

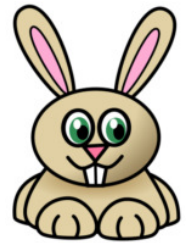
any event get the bait down before the hosta eyes begin to emerge. Apply the bait according to the manufacturer's directions. (It actually takes a lot less slug bait than you would think, so don't over-apply.) And remember to re-apply as directed. One single application won't get the job done. *Editor: The bait should be placed in the crown of the plant as they overnight there waiting to come up and feed on your leaves.*

### Fertilizing

Fertilizing your hostas is not an absolute requirement to successfully growing hostas. Many folks (myself included) rarely, if ever, fertilize their hosta beds. More important, we believe, is consistent water through the growing season and good soil prep (see below). However to obtain that "award winning specimen" that you see pictures of in catalogs and magazines, you may want to fertilize. Your lowest cost option is to apply a balanced granular fertilizer (10-10-10 or 12-12-12). Apply fertilizer 3 or 4 times throughout the growing season starting in late March or early April, with the last application no later than August 1st. Note that if you do opt to fertilize you are essentially obligating yourself to more frequent watering during the summer months to support the more vigorous growth.

### Four Legged Garden Visitors

Rabbits can be a nuisance in the garden. Trapping is a good option using apple slices as bait. Once trapped, the rabbit can then be relocated. Spray-on repellents can also be effective but must be reapplied as directed. These sprays are not systemic and only protect that portion of the foliage where applied. This is an important point as hostas go through their rapid spring growth spurt. New foliage emerges on almost a daily basis which remains unprotected until it is sprayed. We can personally recommend a spray on product called "Liquid Fence". This product has also proven effective on deer. Just remember you will need to reapply as directed and maybe more frequently if you receive a lot of rainfall.



### Planting Hostas

"Never plant a \$5.00 plant in a \$0.50 hole." We've all heard this old saying and it certainly applies to hostas. Since hostas rarely need to be divided (unlike most other perennials), we often only get one chance to properly select and prepare the planting area. The planting site should ideally get a couple of hours of morning sun (especially for the white-centered varieties), followed by bright dappled shade. Hostas like a moisture retentive soil, but with good drainage. This means adding plenty of organic matter to clay or sandy soils. Work

the soil to about 8-10" deep and about 18-24" across (per plant).

When removing container grown hostas from their pots don't be shy about untangling the roots which may have become root-bound encircling the container. Build a cone of soil in the middle of the planting hole and place the hosta on top of the cone. Spread the roots out laterally. Elevate the plant to be at the same soil level as found in the container, or about 1" of soil cover over the crown. Don't plant any deeper than this. Water well along with a root stimulator solution (available at most garden centers). Then add a thin layer of mulch to the bed (no more than 1-2" deep) to help conserve soil moisture. Finally push the mulch back away from the plant about 3-4" to help discourage slugs and fungal disease.

### Dividing Hostas

While hostas rarely (if ever) need to be divided (unlike most perennials), division is most easily accomplished in the spring just as the eyes (or pips) are emerging from the ground, but before the leaves start to unfurl. At this point you don't need to be as careful about damaging the foliage. Division is usually easiest when the entire hosta clump is lifted out of the ground. A spade can be used to dig the clump and to then cut wedges between the eyes. If you want to divide every single eye from an established clump, dig up the entire clump, and use a hose to wash away the soil from the roots. Then use a knife to separate each eye. The key is to retain a reasonable amount of roots with each division. Plant the eyes no deeper than about 1".

*Editor: If you are planning to furnish some plants for the auction follow these tips for splitting at this time. Pot them up in a good potting mix and set aside in a place in non-direct sun (if it ever warms up) and water them with a mild fertilizing solution.*

*The Hosta Guys—Rob and Trey*

*Made in the Shade Gardens*

### Hostatality

**Pat Stoffel did an outstanding job last year and Barbara has volunteered to fill her shoes. Barb will have water and coffee for the indoor meetings, water for outside events. At each indoor meeting we will, at the prior meeting, ask for at least 4 volunteers to munchies (probably cookies) for the following meeting. The exception will be the potluck meeting at Mary Ann's. Contact her at barbchro1@gmail.com or 217-359-2868 for more information.**

## 2018 IPHS Dues are due now

**2018 IPHS dues are due this month. If you did not receive a renewal notice via email please let Joyce know. The yearly dues for family is \$15 which includes all persons living in your home. The annual booklet will be ready in late April after the meeting, and via email, so be sure to get your renewal in as soon as possible. You have received this issue of the newsletter but will be your last if you have not renewed. We do hope, that even if you did not renew, you come to our auction to buy some plants to fill your yard.**

**Send your check to Joyce Goode, PO Box 4, Mansfield, IL 61854**

## H' World Cup' Hosta of the Year

The American Hosta Growers Association assembles a list of the best-of-the-best hostas annually and chooses one variety as "Hosta of the Year." Each Hosta of the Year is acknowledged for being unique, easy to grow, and widely available. These plants are the cornerstones of most hosta collectors' gardens, making them a good choice for beginning gardeners and experienced collectors alike.

The 2018 Hosta of the Year is Hosta 'World Cup', a spectacular bright gold hybrid of 'Komodo Dragon' x 'Super Bowl' hybridized by Doug Beilstein of Mansfield, Ohio. It is a large hosta with upright petioles and deeply cupped leaves. It appears to be reaching for the sky. Obviously it has inherited the very best traits from each of its great parents. It is listed as growing to 19" tall with a spread of 39". However, as it has matured in gardens across the country, it has proven to be much larger. The registered size of the evenly puckered leaves is 9"x6" and almost every one of them neatly faces to the center of the clump.

Want to brighten up your shade garden?

Add Hosta 'World Cup'.



## *Illinois Prairie Hosta Society*

---

1819 Coventry Dr  
Champaign, IL 61822-5239

---

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

---

### **Remarks by Rick—President**

Last month I started this column with notes about cold weather and would spring ever come. The March meeting was planned to present new plants for 2018 by our speaker from Growing Grounds in Bloomington. What better planning could there be, spring had arrived and we had an inside meeting to get ready for planting.

Well the day came and the weather experts had been saying this snow storm would hit soon after the meeting was over. My conversation with Bruce Lavin of Growing Grounds, as he was leaving Bloomington, was about the snow and ice in his area and in looking at radar maps it was going to get worse. To be safe for him we canceled this plan to come (had some 15 plants in the car with him) and work on plans for another day. Barb sent out a note early that it was still on, but as weather got worse and we canceled his trip she sent out a note that the meeting was canceled.

Knowing that many would not see the message and we had sent the note to the Master Gardeners we went to the U of I Extension office to see who arrived. By 2 PM we had 9 of our members, the O'Donnell's came from the Kankakee area, and 11 guests. There was disappointment that we had canceled, the guests really looking forward to the program, but after a short meeting I suggested we stay

seated around two tables and answer questions about gardening and hostas. We did introductions of everyone there and then got into great discussion about trimming woodies, rabbits, voles, hostas, planting and any other topics we could think of. By the time we adjourned around 3 PM we had 2-3 inches of snow in the parking lot. Two or 3 of those attending said they had learned a lot from the discussion and really enjoyed themselves. The O'Donnell's made it home OK but noted a number of vehicles off the road on I-57.

We will be planning another program with Bryce in the near future and those that attended will be welcomed back.

Note that Susan is planning some Saturday morning "cleanup" sessions at the hosta garden. We know that some of you are not retired (we feel sorry for you—really) and can't make some of our work days during the week. This will give you an opportunity to come to the garden, cut dead leaves off and pick up sticks. In addition, you might see a hosta you want to find to add to your garden.

*Rick* [rickschro1@gmail.com](mailto:rickschro1@gmail.com)

---