

Hosta Happenings

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

ISSUE 108

JULY 2019

2019 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **July 7, Hosta Garden Walk #3, Downers Grove**
- **July 12, Cantigny Hosta Garden Dedication, Cantigny**
- **July 14, Hosta Garden Walk #4, Lombard**
- **July 20, Annual Bus Trip, Rockford, Cherry Valley & Dubuque, IA,**
- **Aug 11, Hosta & Plant Auction, Community House, Hinsdale**
- **Sept 15, Fall Potluck & Annual Mtg, Campton Hills**
- **Oct, Fall Symposium , TBD**
- **Dec, Holiday Party, TBD**



Hosta of the Year H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'

Pic courtesy of Walters Gardens

President's Letter

In June I attended my first American Hosta Society Convention. It was hosted by the Green and Gold Hosta Society in Green Bay, WI. The Green and Gold did a phenomenal job in putting on this event for the more than 500 attendees. NIHS was well represented in Green Bay with more than a dozen attendees. The weather was wet and cool, but no one seemed to mind as the gardens were magnificent. Overall what a great experience. See the three convention articles by local authors in this issue. The 2020 AHS convention will be in Minneapolis.

We began our garden walks in June. I want to thank Monica and Joe Jansen and Stevie and Mark Meginness for opening their gardens to us. If you were not able to visit these gardens, you missed a real treat. The gardens were very different but both had a WOW factor. We have two more garden walks in July. If you can, please make sure you visit these gardens. The homeowners spend a lot of time preparing their gardens and we should honor them by showing up. July 7th we will be in Downers Grove and July 14th in Lombard. I hope to see you all there.

On Saturday, June 22nd, we hosted 31 members of the Central Illinois Hosta Society to tour our Cantigny National Hosta Display Garden. Barbara King and Lou Horton walked

Continued next page



In this Issue:

Bus Trip	2
Vendor Ads	2 & 8
Cantigny Dedication	3
Hosta Garden Walks	4 & 5
Martagon Lily Search	6
Dig Auction Plants Now	8
Gardening with Hostas	9
New Member Welcome	10
Leaf Display Remembered	11
Jansen Garden Memories	12
CIHS Visit to Cantigny	14
Meginness Garden Redux	15
Spring Symposium	17
AHS Tour Garden #1	18
AHS Tour Garden #2	19
Lifetime Members	20
Streaked Hosta Surgery	21
2020 Convention Update	23
Officers & Directors	24

President's Letter *continued*

the group through the gardens explaining the history of how we got to where we are. I believe everyone enjoyed their time in the garden. If you have not been to Cantigny recently make some time to do so.

Friday July 12th is the dedication of the National Display Garden at Cantigny. You are invited & encouraged to attend. Please see the article on page 3 for details.

Also, Saturday July 20th is our Annual Bus Tour. This year's trip has stops in Cherry Valley, Rockford and Dubuque. Great gardens & shopping opportunity!

Sunday, August 11th is our annual fundraiser - our Annual Auction and Plant Sale. Once again it will be held at the Community House in Hinsdale. Mark Zilis has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer. Even though the Auction is more than a month away, this is the time to dig up those hostas & companion plants you want to donate. NIHS really appreciates everyone's participation and donations as this is our only fundraiser for the year.

We still have two potluck dinners remaining on our schedule this year. The next one is in September, our annual meeting, and will be hosted once again by Judi and Ron Asselborn in Campton Hills. The second is in December which is our Holiday Party. At this time, we need ONE VOLUNTEER to host the December Holiday Party. NIHS will provide the host with a check to cover the cost of the main course. Attendees will bring a dish to pass and they will help with the setup and cleanup. If you can handle 25 – 35 guests, please consider hosting this event. You can contact me or Judi Asselborn if you have any questions. Understand that 'no host' may mean 'no potluck'. A possible alternative would be to rent a room at a restaurant or hall and charge attendees to cover the cost of the hall and food at a potential cost of \$15+ per person. This is "your" Society, please, I need your HELP.

Hosta-la-Vista,

Mike Kraus



Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanical Gardens



Open House and Hosta Walk
June 7-8-9

Artisan Market—September 7

Nursery Open: April 10 – October 10
Princeton, Illinois (815) 659-3282

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Seats Are Available!



Bus tour to Rockford Area and Dubuque, IA July 20

Contact Mark Rekoske ASAP to reserve your seat! 224- 622-1171or marekoske@gmail.com

COST: **\$50** for NIHS members and members' spouses. **\$50** for guests (includes a one-year NIHS membership).

We will devote a full day to touring gardens from Rockford, Illinois to Dubuque, Iowa on Saturday, July 20. We will visit four private gardens. In addition, a hosta **shopping opportunity** will be available at The Hosta Leaf at Colesburg, Iowa.

CANTIGNY HOSTA GARDEN READY FOR DEDICATION ON JULY 12

By Barbara King

You are invited! The July 12 garden dedication begins at 1:00 pm.

Invitations to the dedication went out about a month ago to all NIHS members, Cantigny staff, and a number of guests. The ceremony will be brief with several people representing NIHS and Cantigny making remarks. Then Mark Zilis, our featured speaker, will discuss AHS gardens as well as the changes that have occurred in hostas since 1980 when the first AHS garden opened. The event will conclude with a ribbon cutting, garden tours and a reception in the Medill Room in the Visitors Center.



NIHS volunteers have been working diligently in the Cantigny Park Hosta Garden since the beginning of May to get it ready for the dedication on July 12. We have raked debris, weeded, mulched the entire garden, and planted more than 20 additional hostas. Our total number of hostas in the garden is now 300. Cantigny has added plants adjacent to the garden, plus a number of large pots of colorful shade annuals to demarcate the secondary pathways. Even with another workday scheduled before the big event, the garden is ready.

Tours will be an important part of the dedication, so if



you haven't seen the garden yet, or haven't seen it recently, this is your chance! If you remember its appearance from when we started it several years ago, you will notice that Project New Leaf, Cantigny's 5-year park renovation project, has changed it. NIHS volunteers will be available to guide you through, explain what has happened, and answer questions. Hope to see you there!

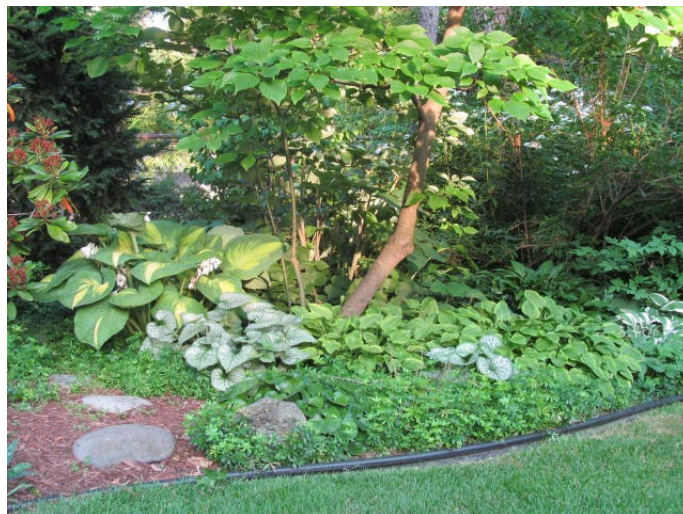
Pics by Diane Barrowman & June Vandervest



Hosta Garden Walk #3 Preview Sunday July 7 in Downers Grove

Wayne & Bill Reid Garden Open 2 to 5 pm

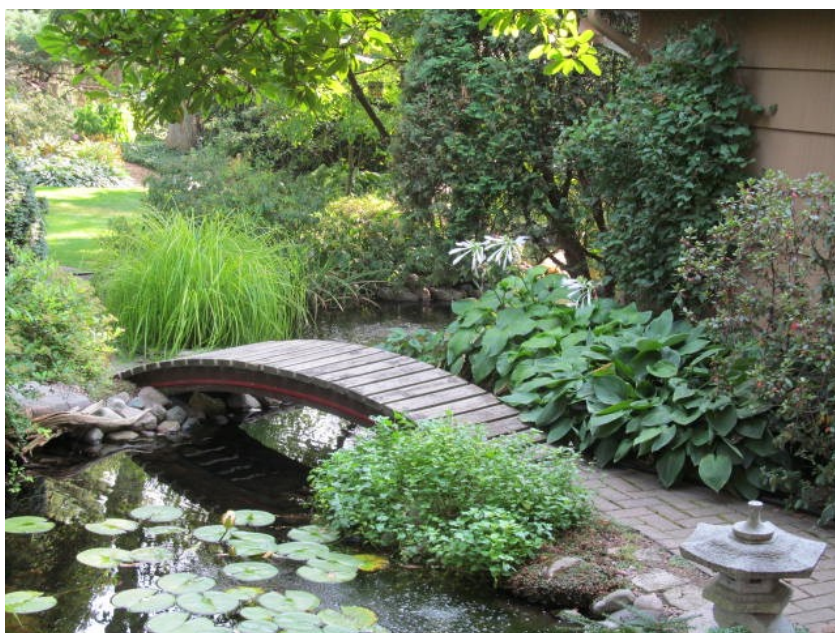
As you enter through the garden gate, a huge naturalized pond and garden greet you. The pond is surrounded by a wide variety of trees, shrubs, hostas, perennials and some annuals that provide season-long color.



flourishing in many areas through-out the mostly shady yard. The Morton Arboretum has been an inspiration for many years and a source for some of the plants through their plant sales. Please come and enjoy our garden and pond!

Directions to 121 Fourth St, Downers Grove:

From the intersection of 55th and Fairview Ave., go North on Fairview to Fourth St. (just North of the church) ; turn right (east) two blocks on Fourth St. to Connor Rd. Jog 200 ft. north on Connor Rd. Then turn right (east) on Fourth St. to 121 Fourth St., Downers Grove which is the second house on the right.



The oriental themed garden had its beginnings in 1972 when we first moved into the house. As you walk along the pond you cross over an arched bridge and follow a flagstone path to the rest of the yard. Stepping stones across the lawn lead you to a wood chip path which follows along the back of the pond to a deck overlooking the pond with large colorful koi .

Another wood chip path at the back of the yard circles through a sunny perennial garden. Hostas are



Hosta Garden Walk #4 Preview

Sunday July 14 in Lombard

Cher & Mark Herlache' Garden Open 2 to 5 pm

When we purchased our 1920's house in June of 1987, I was not a gardener. I thought the giant thistle plants were interesting until a horrified passerby told me what they were. The yard was overgrown with privet and honeysuckle hedges & dead rose canes but the house spoke to us, and we were much younger.

The front walk was bordered on both sides by pretty, lance-like leaved green plants, which were lush and carefree. The pond had the same plant along the edges, and I was impressed they all came back every year and I liked the stalks with pretty purple flowers.



Flash forward to 1993: we had tamed the yard somewhat, and I joined our local garden club. One member gave me a tour of her garden and a small clump of my favorite plant, but lo and behold, it had some white edges on the leaves! I was told my two plants were...hostas. I was so excited to have "both varieties"!



Later the hosta bug bit me and it bit hard when someone told me there were over 700 different hostas, (remember, I was learning). Soon I was searching far and wide for food-named or people-named hostas. By doing that, I thought I could control myself, ha ha! I carefully labeled each plant after planning the perfect site for it's mature height and width. The next few seasons our precious pup, Kona, brought me about 50 plant ID markers pulled up from their important locations, and I could not remember which hosta was which. So many of my originals are "unnamed".

I have expanded my gardening obsession and the gardens, much to the chagrin of my husband who liked the grass, to include companion plants and natives. I continue to be a fool for flowers, succulents and hostas! I enjoy the riots of color and textures I can change up annually.

Please come and enjoy the gardens and our koi pond. If Curly, the fish, made it through the winter, he'll be 26 this year and perhaps he'll show you his trick.

Directions to 123 S. Elizabeth St., Lombard

From the intersection of St. Charles Road and Main St., head west to Elizabeth St. There is a traffic light and a Walgreens at that corner. Go south on Elizabeth, over the tracks to the stop sign, which is Maple St. We are on the northeast corner of Elizabeth and Maple Streets. Parking is on the south side of Maple St., or on the west side of Elizabeth St, south of Maple. There is no parking in front of the house.



Search for the Elusive Martagon Lily 2019 AHS/MRHS Convention

By Betsy Rogers

Floyd and I have attended both AHS and MRHS conventions for many years and we have helped with the Hosta auctions for many more years. About six years ago there was one plant in the auction we had never seen before, we bid on it and it started us on a six-year hunt to find more, never expecting to have so much trouble. That plant was a maroon red martagon lily, a Hosta companion shade plant. It still grows robustly in our garden in the shade of a big bed of H. Blue Angel and some hydrangeas and blooms deep maroon red flowers every year. It is blooming right now (pic upper left).

The first martagon hunts were by catalog. I contacted someone in Canada I found on the internet. "Oh yes, we have them, but they won't be ready for shipping until next spring," they said. "Oh yes, we will call you." Of course, it never happened.

At Hosta shows we were told no, then no again, then maybe next year - still no lilies.

sometimes it is the companion plants that draw our eye. They add interest to our gardens. We go looking for the special ones.

Floyd and I were in the auction room sorting plants. Jean and Gerry Meyer (bottom left) came into the room, martagon lily in hand. "They have martagons," she said. She too has been looking for them for a long time. "Where," I asked?

Fleeing the auction set-up room and racing through the vendor sales room, past someone else with a martagon lily with buds, back in a corner I found Botanophilia. The vendors there had just sold the last one. But they said they would dig what they had and bring them in tomorrow. And they did. There was Liliium 'Orange Marmalade', L. 'Arabian Knight' and L. 'Sunny Morning'. They were little without buds or flowers. Sold!

Back to the auction set-up room I went. Now I was really on an adrenaline high, so happy. Mary Vertz says, "I didn't know you were interested in martagons. There is a great nursery just down the road and they have beautiful martagons and this is how to get there."

Continued next page



Now finally this year, in the halls of the AHS/MRHS combined convention in Green Bay there were whispers... they have martagons. Where? No one seemed to know.

Now many of you know that the most interesting thing about conventions are the people you meet and the passions you share. Most of us share a passion for Hosta but

Search for the Elusive Martagon Lily continued

So, with directions from Mary, after listening to Don Dean's great lecture on blue Hosta, off we went on a road trip to Rose-Hill Gardens. Road trips are always an adventure for us. Floyd and I don't have a high-tech cell phone or a GPS. So, we go on road trips the old fashion way --with a map. But Rose-Hill Gardens was close-by the hotel. We didn't get lost.

And then suddenly there they were – big, beautiful martagon lilies in bud.



Now as you know there are some things in life that really make you happy, and the people you meet on the road of life that you share your passions with are one of them. Thanks to the Rose-Hill people who grow beautiful plants and all the friends who helped fill a dream. ∞



Pics by Ron Asselborn & Floyd Rogers



Dig Your Hostas & Companion Plants Now!

By Mike Kraus

Mark your calendar for Sunday August 11th for our NIHS Annual Auction and Plant Sale! This fun event will again be held at the Community House in Hinsdale. Mark Zilis has once again graciously agreed to be our auctioneer. Mark is a world-renowned hosta expert and author of *The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas and Mark Zilis' Field Guide to Hostas*. Last July Mark ventured to Japan in search of the hosta sieboldiana in its natural environment.

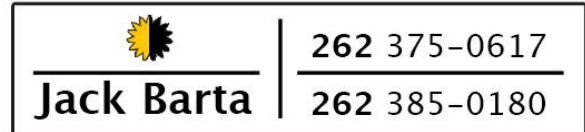
Mark has hybridized hundreds of hostas that are popular and available. Many of them are in our members gardens and are likely to be donated for our auction. He can give you the backstory on how many of these hostas came about.

Even though the Auction is more than a month away, **Now** is the time to dig up those hostas and companion plants that you want to donate. Get them potted now so they can acclimate themselves so they look their best at the auction. NIHS really appreciates your participation and donations as this is our only fundraiser for the year.

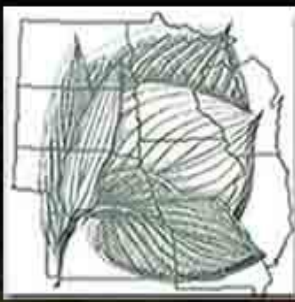
Mark your calendars for Sunday August 11th. More details to follow in our next newsletter. This event is open to the public so **bring a friend or two**. This event is light-hearted and FUN. You don't want to miss it.



Please call for your appointment



W59 N910 Sheboygan Rd. Cedarburg, WI 53012



The Midwest Regional Hosta Society

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

GARDENING with Hostas

By Diana Stoll

When Mother Nature Taketh Away

The winter was very unkind to my landscape. Unkind? That is putting it mildly. It was brutal actually. Viburnums (several of them), burning bushes (both of them), a holly, a smokebush and, the one that hurts the most, a Harry Lauder's walking stick all succumbed to unseasonably frigid temperatures.

Boxwoods, arborvitae and an oakleaf hydrangea were severely damaged. Only some pruning and time will tell if they will recover or be additional victims of her ruthlessness.

Accepting death in the landscape is difficult even when it's just a treasured perennial that doesn't rise from the soil in spring. But when it is several woody plants that provided structure and screening, it is heartbreaking.

First, I was in denial. It was a cold, wet spring. Maybe they were just sleeping in as if it were a Sunday morning. My refusal to accept the inevitable was encouraged by some new growth eventually breaking on one of the viburnums. Maybe the others were sleeping in even longer, like a teenager on spring break.

Then the shock of their demise set in as I examined them more closely, discovering their branches were brittle with lifelessness. I couldn't believe these shrubs had died. Some of them had been in my landscape for more than 20 years.

Guilt soon followed. Did I disturb too many of their roots while planting around them last summer? Did I make sure they were all well hydrated before the ground froze last fall?

And then I got angry. Angry at Mother Nature. Angry at the empty spaces left behind. Angry they would all have to be replaced. Angry.



A Harry Lauder's walking stick was just one of the shrubs taken by Mother Nature.

I felt better sharing my losses with other gardeners. Apparently, I was not alone. One lost all the burning bushes that skirted the front of her house. Another lost several shrubs, too. We all seemed to benefit from sharing our casualties of winter's war.

Once I accepted these changes in my gardens, I began considering my options. I cut back the dead

wood on the viburnum that showed signs of life to give it a chance to once again fill the space to screen the neighbor's pool. The other shrubs offered quite different opportunities.

The viburnum just outside our bedroom window was a stage for birds in the winter and as much as I will miss it, digging it out makes room for the unit for central air conditioning. We have never had central air in our home, and I would have never cut the shrub down to make room for it. Did Mother Nature give me central air?

The holly was encroaching on a path through a garden that had evolved into a natural garden with wildflowers and native plants. I would have never moved it. Did Mother Nature remove it for me to prevent it from scratching the arms and legs of those who traveled the path?

The Harry Lauder's walking stick was a gorgeous specimen. I planted it near the driveway so its twisting, coiling branches could be admired in the winter. As much as I loved it, it had grown very large (much larger than its tag suggested), hiding our front door from the street. Did Mother Nature improve our curb appeal?

When Mother Nature taketh away, gardeners are reminded it is she who is in charge. But while she may be in control of the weather, it is us – optimistic gardeners – who are in charge of the opportunities left in her wake.





Join the **American Hosta Society** and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the *Members Only* section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions.

Membership Rates for one year:

Individual \$30

Family \$34

New Member Welcome!!

A special welcome to our newest hostaphiles!

- Eileen Zehr Good, Evanston
- Thomas & Lillian Knaus, Mt. Prospect
- Peggy Knight, West Chicago
- Henry & Judy Morris, Hinsdale
- Kevin & Joanna Ottley & family, Geneva



Join the NIHS by contacting Stevie Meginness, Membership Secretary, 84 Dunham Place, St. Charles, IL 60174 with your check for \$20. Please include your name(s), address, phone #, and current email address.

Family membership dues of \$20 for 2 years include email versions of 5 newsletters.

Email us at NI.hosta@gmail.com. Call Stevie at 630-377-9306. Visit our website @ www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org and visit us on Facebook.



**Hosta Leaf Display Voted Hosta
'Smash Hit' #1
By Nancy Huck**



We had 317 different hosta varieties on exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Garden -- 3 more than the 2018 show. I was hoping we would top last years' total and we did. Many thanks to all our volunteers! The voting for the favorite leaf as tabulated by Linda Lood: 267 votes were cast. The top 10 vote-getters were:

1. Smash Hit - 17 votes (*see pic at left & top left*)
2. Dancing Queen - 15 votes
3. Andrew - 13 votes each
Bluetooth
Hans
4. Empress Wu - 9 votes
5. Eskimo Pie - 8 votes each
Forbidden Fruit
Imperial Palace
Orange Marmalade

Pics by June Vandervest & Nancy Huck





Joe & Monica Jansen's Garden In Gurnee, Sunday June 9.
The Jansen's have collected hostas and unusual trees and shrubs to create a sensory delight of color and sound.

Joe Jansen, above left. Monica Jansen in light top in pic on right.



*Pics by
Ron
Asselborn*





Jansen Garden
continued





Central Illinois Hosta Society Tours our Cantigny Hosta Garden

by Mike Kraus

On Saturday, June 22nd, we hosted 31 members of the Central Illinois Hosta Society (Peoria, IL) to tour our Cantigny National Hosta Display Garden. Barbara King and Lou Horton (pic below) walked everyone through the gardens explaining the history of how we got to where we are today. The weather & the gardens were beautiful.

Pics by Mike Kraus



NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY
HOSTA HAPPENINGS



Stevie & Mark Meginness' Garden on Sunday June 23

A gorgeous afternoon enhanced the gorgeous garden that Stevie & Mark Meginness have created in St. Charles. Mature hostas nestled with companion lilies, ferns, shrubs & trees amongst the walking paths and seating areas.

Pics by Ron Asselborn



Stevie Meginness accepting a garden compliment, top left. Mark Meginness (above pic, dark shirt) happy that Stevie finished weeding before the guests arrived.



Stevie & Mark Meginness' Garden
continued



Garden Elements Revealed at Spring Symposium

by Janet Simpson

Beau and Nancy Kimbal took us on a tour of garden elements they found in different parts of the world and our country. They explained how these elements found their way into many beautiful gardens. They revealed how great designers have used architectural and art elements in the garden. Beau & Nancy are antique and style experts who have traveled the world buying & selling architectural artifact and garden antiques.

Beau explained how he makes his unique garden spheres from salvaged architectural finds and how the present day planter boxes evolved. Most fascinating was the history of a rose marble chair from a medieval cathedral.

The audience enjoyed their stories that provided an amazing glimpse into the world of architectural and garden elements throughout the ages.



Pics by Andy Campbell



Dennis & Amy Russell's Garden on Tour 2019 AHS/MRHS Convention

By Ron Asselborn

As you drive down the charming tree-lined suburban street the Russell's garden literally jumps out from the mostly well-tended lawns. The front of their 2-story colonial is surrounded by lushly planted garden beds filled with a variety of trees, shrubs, hostas and heucheras. The cocoa bean mulch aroma makes you crave for a chocolate cookie, which they provided. This ¼ acre Eden is Dennis' passion since he retired as a city planner. The garden has also been a family affair with important contributions from Amy and their kids including fence-building and bricklaying.

Dennis is most proud of his garden shed, a picturesque structure that is both attractive and functional, tucked into a corner of the backyard. Dennis is both the garden designer and plant installer. He has chosen the plants including the blooming lilac standards & hostas in pots. His favorite hosta is 'Jerry Landwehr', named after the first president of the Green & Gold Hosta Society and Dennis' mentor. Amy has collaborated on design and enthusiastically embraces maintenance weeding as Zen therapy. She loves to invite friends and neigh-

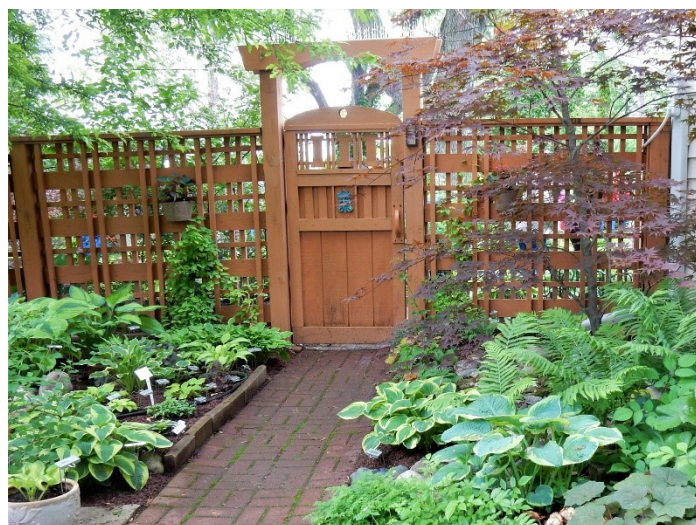


bors to enjoy their retreat and share the tranquility. Amy's favorite space is their "Memorial Garden" on the side near the Asian-style fence & gate. The area is dedicated to memories of her mom and family. Her fav hostas include 'Liberty' and 'Marilyn Monroe'.

Son Garrett, with a twinkle in his eye, relates the family's attention to detail with his recent cleaning the roof of the billions of silver maple seeds just prior to the tour. He also smiles when recounting Amy's slug-hunting adventures in the back yard at midnight using a miner's helmet.

Together the Russell family have created and enjoy a gorgeous retreat that nourishes both body and soul.

Article originally written for MRHS newsletter soon to be published.



Herb & Gladie King Garden on Tour
2019 AHS/MRHS Convention
By Mary Ann Brucher



When arriving at the King garden, you are greeted with a spectacular panorama of beautiful hostas surrounded by a variety of complimentary green plants and a plethora of colorful flowers dotted throughout the scene. The Japanese primrose were gorgeous accents amongst the hosta clumps.

I had my picture taken with our host, Herb King. He was talking with many of the visitors telling them stories about the garden. The pictures tell the story of this beautiful garden.



The back yard greeted guests with a lovely oriental touch. A gazebo with a dragon perched on top of it and a lovely

arched bridge to cross - providing touches of the oriental. Many potted plants in interesting containers were tucked amongst the mature hostas on the meandering paths. Several water features including a babbling stream and a fountain make the garden inviting and restful. Numerous small Ginkgo trees in pots and in the ground are accent plants among the hostas.

Garden statuary is dotted throughout the garden, placed to accent specimen plants and to be enjoyed by visitors. An overlook of the garden is provided on the elevated porch on

the back of the house - a beautiful scene.

This garden has over 400 of Herb's named Hostas and many more still under evaluation. Herb and Gladie are "Hooked on Hostas" and enjoying every minute. "And playing in the 'yarden' is our favorite pastime. It keeps us young at heart!!"

*Article originally written for MRHS newsletter soon to be published.
pics by June Vandervest & Ron Asselborn*



Lifetime NIHS Members

We Recognize Your 25 Years of Service

Jan and Earl Smith



Earl is a retired school administrator and Jan is a retired horticulturist. Together they enjoy visiting beautiful gardens. While Earl spends much of his retirement on the golf course, Jan is active in several garden clubs encompassing organic gardening, daylilies, native plants, in addition to the NIHS Society in which she previously served as Secretary. They live at Windsor Park Covenant Living Community in Carol Stream where Jan continues gardening and making stepping stones which she uses to raise funds to give to worthy causes.

Kenneth & Joan Ritzert

Ken & Joan Ritzert care for over 350 hosta varieties in their Darien garden. They formerly sold hostas and Joan was known locally as the 'Hosta Lady'. Joan is a retired medical technologist and Ken was formerly a teacher. They continue to love their hostas and gardening. Below is a pic from their garden.



In 2017 members voted to recognize members who achieve 25 years of service. Lifetime members will no longer pay dues.



Streaked Hosta Surgery

David Teager

In order to create variegated hosta seedlings, it is necessary for the hybridizer to maintain one or more streaked plants to serve as the pod parent (mother plant), which will give some percentage of streaked offspring. Over time, streaked hostas (whether the mother or its children) will tend to produce divisions that have settled to a stable pattern: lighter on the edge, lighter in the middle, or, quite frequently, simply a solid color. While the stable variegation patterns are to be desired, and should be separated from the main plant for evaluation, the solid-color forms must also be separated. The all-green divisions especially, are likely to be stronger growers than the streaked divisions, and can quickly overtake the original plant.



While one can perform this maintenance chore at any time, it always seems best to do it in spring, so that the plant recovers before blooming, and the bloom scapes of the streaked divisions do not get confused with scapes from the non-streaked divisions.

Above Right is a streaked breeder in my stable that I call 'Eye Ell Tee', which is the spelled-out form of ILT, an abbreviation linking this to 'Imagine Love', a selected seedling of a Mary Chastain plant named 'Imagine'. Last year it had one or two solid-color divisions that were simply snapped off, leaving a nicely (but not flamboyantly) streaked plant. We put this in a large pot so it could be enjoyed by visitors during the AHS Conventions.



This year, however, it was clear that more radical maintenance was needed. While the division showing at Left is superb, there is too much green in here. First, the plant was lifted out of the pot and most of the potting soil shaken off. The impressive roots were then thoroughly washed to make it easier to see the crown and detangle the roots. Doing this made it clear that the crown was planted a bit too deeply in the pot, but it had not suffered as a result.

Then, recognizing that I didn't care if the surgery resulted in loss of the solid color divisions, I used a clean hori-hori digging knife to split the crown (Right pic) around the best streaked eyes. I took care to break only through the crown and not to cut too many



Continued next page

Streaked Hosta Surgery

continued

roots. Indeed, several all-green eyes were sacrificed with no roots at all, but I also discovered new eyes developing under the good divisions.

In the end, ([pic top right](#)) in addition to the sacrificed eyes, several solid divisions had their roots intact; all went to the compost pile.

Of the streaked portions, the surgery resulted in two good 2-eye crowns and one—blooming prematurely—whose streaking is yet to be evaluated. The streaked divisions also had some new eyes developing, which will be evaluated when they unfold. I let the cut crowns dry out briefly in the sun to sterilize the cuts ([left pic](#)); then planted them back into our nursery bed. If they maintain vigor, I plan to share one of these at a DVHS auction this summer.



crowns and one—blooming prematurely—whose streaking is yet to be evaluated. The streaked divisions also had some new eyes developing, which will be evaluated when they unfold. I let the cut crowns dry out briefly in the sun to sterilize the cuts ([left pic](#)); then planted them back into our nursery bed. If they maintain vigor, I plan to share one of these at a DVHS auction this summer.

So why do hybridizers do this? While ‘Eye Ell Tee’ is not a stunning streaked plant on its own, I have been very pleased with some of its offspring. [Below](#) are two seedlings I’m evaluating: one is a cross of ILT with ‘Teaspoon’, and the other is a cross with ‘Fat Cat’ that has already stabilized to an edge-variegated form. The former will get used for additional breeding. I hope the latter will make an impressive garden plant.



From Delaware Hosta Society Newsletter, Late Spring 2019



2020 MRHS Convention Update

By Barbara King



The 2020 MRHS Convention Committee has accomplished the following to date:

- ◆ Selection of site (Lisle Hilton, same as for 2013 convention hosted by NIHS), name and logo
- ◆ Key positions filled
- ◆ Volunteer recruitment has begun, is going well
- ◆ Information placed on MRHS website: <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/events.shtml>
- ◆ Tentative convention schedule approved
- ◆ Registration form being developed
- ◆ Names are under consideration for two convention plants being provided by Bob Solberg
- ◆ Seven gardens selected for tours Friday and Saturday, 2 -3 more are under consideration
- ◆ Recruitment of staff for leaf show is well under way
- ◆ A Thursday evening Chicago-style pizza party will be at Cantigny; also evening AHS garden tour
- ◆ Webmaster selected

Major tasks remaining:

Note: Though the following tasks have not yet been completed, several contacts have been made, and the committee continues to make progress on them

- * Selection of speakers for seminars
- * Vendor selection
- * Development of garden tour maps
- * Recruitment of additional volunteers
- * Facebook manager needed
- * Tee shirts: Decide on design, how to distribute (There is agreement that volunteers get one free.)

More details coming in September newsletter!

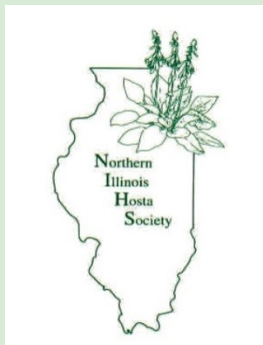
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ron Asselborn, Lou Horton, Mary Ann Metz, Mark Rekoske, Floyd Rogers, and June Vandervest. Co-chairs Barbara King and Mike Kraus



NIHS Membership Secretary

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The Northern Illinois Hosta Society is dedicated to educating the public and promoting the use of hosta in the landscape. NIHS serves the people of Northern Illinois and surrounding areas.



Join the fun at our annual Hosta Auction & Plant Sale on Sunday Aug 11 in Hinsdale. Dig your donation plants now so they will look their best at the auction. Also, the public is invited so bring some friends.



We're on the Web ! www.NorthernIllinoisHostaSociety.org

Visit us on Facebook

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Volunteers readying the Cantigny Hosta Garden for dedication.