



# The Hosta Leaf



of Southeastern Minnesota

Volume 2 Issue 2 Apr/May 2007

## April General Meeting

### Designing with perennials for shady areas.

Kerin Marek, owner of Shades of Green Landscapes and Beth Solie, of Solie Designs For You, will be the speakers for our April Meeting. Their topic will be on designing with perennials for shady areas.

Kerin brings extensive expertise as she has been in the nursery and gardening business for 19 yrs and has had Shades of Green Landscapes for 9 years.

She started out working in the retail gardening floral business and found she enjoyed working with plants. From there she went to Sargent's Nursery in Red Wing where she was the greenhouse manager for 5.5 years. At Sargent's she handled buying and selling of pond products. That opened up a whole new avenue for her and she then specialized in the water garden area.

She later made a decision for a change in her life and opting for a warmer climate she headed to Florida. While there she worked at Walt Disney World in Horticulture Special Events.

Returning to Minnesota she became a grower at Hallstrom's Greenhouses. After returning to the Red Wing area she found her customers were asking for landscaping advice. She decided to start her own business. That was nine years ago and she has enjoyed working with many costumers over the years. She adds that many have become friends.

In 1989 she completed the Master Gardener training and in 2001 was certified as a Tree Care Adviser. The big test came in 2004 when Kerin achieved certification from the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association – a program to encourage and recognize knowledge, expertise, and professionalism in the field.

Beth Solie has had Solie Designs For You for 2 years. She started out by helping friends. Over several years she helped design several gardens. Beth has wonderful ideas when it comes to design and is good at handling all the details.

Beth is also a Master Gardener with plans of becoming a Certified Landscape Professional in the near future.

**April 5 General Meeting  
6:30 p.m.**

**Rochester Public Library  
Auditorium**

**101 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Rochester**

Change  
of  
venue

Kerin has now lived in the Rochester area for two years. She met Beth Solie about the time she moved here and they have become great friends and colleagues working together. Beth and Kerin collaborate on design ideas with Kerin doing the installation of products.

While acknowledging that it is not always an easy thing to have two designers working together they feel that this approach works very well for the two of them. Kerin says they have the utmost respect for each other and can throw ideas at each other to make it work. She feels they are both very fortunate and grateful to have the jobs they do -- bringing smiles to the faces of people who enjoy the work they have done.

Don't miss this chance to learn some design tips for showing off the perennials we love – hostas.



**Garden Tour information: Don't miss upcoming garden tours. See pages 7 & 8.**

Shades of Green Hosta Society  
of Southeastern Minnesota  
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<http://www.soghs.org>

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MEMBERSHIP

Shades of Green Hosta Society  
\$10.00/yr individual, \$15.00 fam

Send dues to:

SOGHS/Betty Olson  
5300 31<sup>st</sup> AV SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

## 2007 Calendar

**April 5** – Meeting/Program – note new location:

**Rochester Public Library Auditorium**  
101 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SE, Rochester, 6:30 pm;  
Business meeting followed by program

**April 17** – SOGHS Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

**May 1** – Public may sign up for Bus Tour to Foxfire Garden (Marshfield, WI) if bus is **not filled by members**

**May 18** – 2:00 pm-7:00 pm - Set up for SOGHS Annual Plant Sale

**May 19** – 8:00 am-Noon - SOGHS Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale, Bldg. 40, Olmsted County Fairgrounds

**May 20** –Hans Hansen's Garden Tour, Waseca, MN

**May 24** – SOGHS Member Garden Tour (5:30-8:30 pm)

**June 3** – Foxfire Garden Bus Tour, Marshfield; WI (depart 6:00 am)

**June 14** – SOGHS Member Garden Tour (5:30-8:30 p.m.) PLUS  
Workshop: How to choose, prep and exhibit hosta leaves, Cindy Tomashek

**June 20-23** - AHS National Convention – Indianapolis, IN

**June 30** – Roger and Kak Koopmans Garden Tour, Faribault

**July 12-14** - Midwest Hosta Convention – Davenport, IA

**July 24** – SOGHS Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm (Location TBA)

**July 26** – SOGHS Member Garden Tour/Plant Swap

**September 8** – Founder's Day Potluck – Tomashek Farm, 21587 U.S. Hwy 52, Preston, MN

**\*Season End Sale by Lone Ridge Nursery???**

**October** – Meeting/Program – 6:30 pm, Rochester Public Library

**October** – Program: "**Advanced Hosta Collecting**" presented by  
Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm, Chapel Hill NC  
Date to be announced later

**November 20** – SOGHS Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm

## Other Important Hosta Memberships

**Midwest Regional Hosta Society**  
\$10./yr Send dues to  
Peter Postelwaite  
2112 Andover Road  
Kildeer , IL 60047

1-847-438-7790  
[www.MidwestHostaSociety.org](http://www.MidwestHostaSociety.org)

**American Hosta Society**  
1 yr \$25. Individual/ \$29. Family  
2 yrs \$47. Ind/ \$52. Family  
3 yrs, Ind/\$65./ \$75 Family.  
Send dues to: Sandie Markland,  
AHS membership Sec.  
8702 Pinnacle Rock CT  
Lorton, VA 22079-3029  
[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)



## President's Letter



As I was listening to the local news one night (KTTC 01/29/07), I heard a young athlete describe why she is successful. She talked about being focused on having a good time and remembering that she plays because she loves it and “that it is important to demonstrate what you believe in if you want others to follow” – a profound statement from a young athlete! I realized that she had perfectly verbalized what I feel and try to say when people ask why or how I decided to form a regional hosta society – I have a good time and do it because I love it, i.e. – hosta gardening – and I am trying to demonstrate that so others will become involved. I knew there were plenty of other gardeners who shared my interest and just needed to find a way to bring everyone together so we could share our experiences and learn from each other.

Our membership meetings are only one opportunity to gather as a group and hear from experienced hosta gardeners, Master Gardeners, nursery/landscape personnel or growers/hybridizers. If you have an idea for a program topic that you would like to know more about, please pass it along to me or to our Program/education Director, Lynn Knott. Or if you have heard a speaker on a topic you think our organization would appreciate learning more about, we'll take names and numbers!! We are always gathering more information and topic ideas to bring to you in the future.

Speaking of the future, I'm thrilled to announce that Bob Solberg, Green Hill Farm, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, will speak to us at a special event in late October. We have yet to work out all the details (time/location), but it's extremely exciting that's he's agreed to add a stop in Rochester to his agenda after speaking to the Minnesota Hosta Society. Bob is one of the premier hosta hybridizers working in this country today and has a legendary record of great introductions plus awards from the AHS recognizing his contributions. To top it off, he's a genuinely nice person and an excellent speaker. Just visit his user-friendly web site, [www.hostahosta.com](http://www.hostahosta.com) to learn more about his introductions. Our Plant of the Year order through Green Hill Farm this year is a bit of a trial to see how well our members receive the bare root plants...we can always go back to a vendor offering potted plants, but I doubt you'll be disappointed! I always look forward to the high quality plants I've ordered from Green Hill Farm in the past as well as the plants Bob vendors at national conventions.

While the turnout for Coffee and Catalogs was light, there was an abundance of gardening catalogs to peruse and much chatter about gardening plans for the upcoming season. The energy of this organization is a real inspiration - and I think I'm going to need it when the weather warms up a bit more and I swing into hard core gardening mode!"

The excitement is growing! Cindy



PS –

Here's a picture of a couple of the more vigorous streaked H. 'Galaxy' seedlings from the seeds I collected!



# SOGHS 2nd Annual Plant Sale

Joan Dotzenrod

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale is quickly approaching. This is our key fundraiser for the Shades of Green Hosta Society. We need your participation to guarantee a successful event. You can help by donating plants and volunteering your time and service.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting. **Volunteers will be needed for:**

- Plant Rescue Team (Prior to sale date)
- Set-up (table coverings, signage, arranging plants, etc. (Fri 2-5 &/or 5-7))
- Receive, Identify & Price Plants (Fri 2-5 &/or 5-7:30)
- Staff our Programs/Educational table (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Staff our Membership/Promotions table (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Cashiers (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Customer service to assist customers (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Wagon wheelers (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Holding Area (Sat 8-10 &/or 10-noon)
- Tear down & clean-up (Sat 11-1 PM)

Funds support and promote the Society mission through educational opportunities, program guest speakers, sponsoring scholarships, sponsoring AHS memberships, sponsoring awards at the Olmsted County Fair, Community Service Projects, Plant of the Year to Members, Hosta Adventure book to Members, etc.



Also Needed: Continue donating used blinds for plant labels and pricing tags. Your generous donations are deeply appreciated so we will have a successful fundraiser.

## Guidelines for Plant donations:

Plants that grow well at your home sell well. Donations will include all varieties of hostas (old and new), companion perennial plants (all types) and garage sale items in good condition (i.e. stepping stones, garden sculpture, garden accessories, etc.).

As soon as you can, start digging in early spring to divide and pot up plants. Early potting lets the plants recover and they will look much better by May 19<sup>th</sup>. Beautiful plants sell quickly.

If you need help digging, dividing and potting plants for the sale, you may call Cindy Tomashek at 289-2614 and arrangements will be made to offer assistance.

Bring your donations to the fairgrounds horticulture building on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2PM-7PM. Label your plants if you know the name!

**Plant Sale -- Saturday, May 19, 2007  
8AM-Noon  
Olmsted County Fairgrounds Horticulture Building  
Plant Sale Set-Up – Friday, May 18, 2007 2PM-7PM**

# PLANT SALE 2007



## **Potting Process Hints:**

Pots and potting mix are being made available to members with plants to donate on a first come first serve basis. Use these materials to pot up your donations.

Doris Amundsen ( 282-7869, [Flwrpwr58@charter.net](mailto:Flwrpwr58@charter.net) )  
Betty Olson (287-0380) and Kyle Herring (cell 602-396-2305, [Kyle@herringexteriordesign.com](mailto:Kyle@herringexteriordesign.com) ) have volunteered to host potting mix and plant pot pick-up locations. Contact one of these volunteers when you are ready to start potting your plants.

You can use a coffee filter in the bottom of the container to keep soil in while allowing water to drain out. Once your plants are potted, keep them watered and in a location appropriate to the plant type.

Dig up the entire plant to be divided using a garden fork (it's much kinder to the root system). Use a sharp knife or shovel to divide the plant making sure to have at least 2-3 growing shoots with roots attached to each division. Immediately re-plant and water any divisions you are keeping. Be sure to disinfect your tools, garden fork, shovel, knives, etc with a 10% bleach solution between plants!

If you don't have slugs you can leave some of the soil on the roots and supplement that with potting mix; be sure to use a container large enough to hold all the roots. The root ends produce the hormone that signals the plant to grow, so you want to leave them intact if possible! Place the crown at soil level or just slightly below soil level.

Water them well and keep freshly potted plants out of the wind in a shaded location – don't let them dry out.

**Please choose only healthy plants for sale. That means no distorted, funny colored (splashed, blotchy, streaky) leaves – unless of course it is one of the more unusual varieties meant to have those characteristics.**

## **For bare root plants or if you have slugs:**

Rinse all the soil off the roots by swishing it in a large bucket of water - then dip it in a 10% bleach solution to disinfect the fresh cut.

Change the water from plant to plant (if you are doing several divisions from one plant you can re-use the water). Rinse the root ends in fresh water before wrapping the roots in damp papers or paper towels. Immediately slip a plastic bag around the wrapped roots, securing it with rubber bands to keep the roots moist. The rubber bands should be snug enough to hold things in place and keep moisture in rather than strangling the plant.

Keep bare root plants in a cool, shaded location like a garage or basement. They will be fine under these circumstances for 5 days at least -- as long as the roots don't dry out. If you need assistance potting your bare root plants, the plant sale committee will help.



*If you have other questions, please call the Plant Sale Committee or send e-mail:*

Joan Dotzenrod (507) 533-6614,  
[CDOTZ@prodigy.net](mailto:CDOTZ@prodigy.net)

Karen Noltee (507) 288-6730,  
[GramakJ@charter.net](mailto:GramakJ@charter.net)

Cindy Tomashek (507) 289-2614 or  
email ([prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:prestonplants@aol.com))



Over the past few months we have conducted a survey to determine what hostas our SOGHS members particularly like and have had success growing. We also asked if any hostas were of particular difficulty or disappointment. 53 members (about half our members) responded and provided a long list of well liked hostas and a small list of problems.



139 different hostas were listed in the favored column while 40 different hostas were reported to have had some problems. "Slug feast" and poor growth were listed as the major complaints, didn't live up to promotion another. Loss of color and the "going going gone" phenomenon were also mentioned. Leaf melt and tear also caused disappointment.

Interestingly, about 1/3 of the hostas on the list of "hostas that performed poorly " were also on the favorite hosta list. 'Great Expectations' got about equal votes in both categories – 6 favorite, 7 poor performer. Some mentioned it was very slow but could overlook that problem because of the beauty of the plant. 'Tattoo' was mentioned 4 times in the favored list but 8 times in the unsatisfactory list. 'Whirlwind' and 'White Christmas' were mentioned 3 times as poor performers.

'Sum and Substance' topped the favorite list with 16 votes on the favored list. Other double digit vote getters were:  
H. *montana* 'Aureomarginata' had 15 votes and 'June' and 'Paul's Glory' had 14 votes, 'Striptease' (11).

Following is a list of the other hostas mentioned along with votes received. You may want to give these hostas consideration for your garden as you plan additions.

Many of the hostas in the poor performers list have done very well for others so you do not want to dismiss them. Location and water may make the difference for you.

In the coming year, evaluate and keep notes on your hostas. We will redo our survey.

## Favorite Hostas

- 'Sum and Substance' 16
- montana* 'Aureomarginata' 15
- 'June' 14
- 'Paul's Glory' 14
- 'Striptease' 11
- 'Krossa Regal' 9

### 8 votes each

- 'Guacamole'
- 'Guardian Angel'
- 'Paradigm'
- 'Patriot'

- 'Sagae' 7

### 6 votes each

- 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'
- 'Blue Angel'
- 'Great Expectations'
- 'Regal Splendor'
- 'Whirlwind'

### 5 votes each

- 'Gold Standard'
- 'Lemon Lime'
- 'Sun Power'

### 4 votes each

- 'Blue Mouse Ears'
- 'Lady Isobel Barnett'
- 'On Stage'
- 'Revolution'
- 'Stained Glass'
- 'Stiletto'
- 'Tattoo'

### 3 votes each

- 'Black Hills'
- 'Blue Mammoth'
- 'Golden Tiara'
- 'Liberty'
- 'Love Pat'
- 'Olive Bailey Langdon'
- 'Pandora's Box'
- plantaginea*
- 'Remember Me'
- sieboldiana* 'Elegans'
- 'Titanic'



## More favorites

### 2 votes each

- 'Abba Dabba Do'
- 'August Moon'
- 'Big Blue'
- 'Crusader'
- 'Chartreuse Wiggles'
- 'Dark Star'
- 'Earth Angel'
- 'Fire and Ice'
- 'Francee'
- 'Francis Williams'
- 'Ginko Craig'
- 'Holy Mole'
- 'Invincible'
- 'Marion Bachman'
- 'Moonlight Sonata'
- 'Old Glory'
- 'Orange Marmalade'
- 'Royal Standard'
- 'Squash Casserole'
- 'Thunderbolt'
- 'Twilight'

### 1 vote each

- 'Allegan Fog'
- 'Aurora Borealis'
- 'Avocado'
- 'Baby Bunting'
- 'Big Daddy'
- 'Big Momma'
- 'Bill Brincka'
- 'Blue Jay'
- 'Blue Moon'
- 'Bold Ribbons'
- 'Brave Amherst'
- 'Bright Lights'
- 'Brother Ronald'
- 'Camelot'
- 'Carrie Ann'
- 'Carnival'
- 'Cheatin Heart'
- 'Choo Choo Train'
- 'Christmas Candy'
- 'Cookie Crumbs'
- 'Darwin's Standard'
- 'Dorothy Benedict'
- 'Dream Weaver'
- 'El Nino'
- 'Elvis Lives'
- 'Emerald Tiara'
- 'Fireworks'

Cont on next page

**Favorite hostas cont**  
**1 vote each**

'Five O'clock Shadow'  
'Fortunei Albomarginata'  
'Fragrant Bouquet'  
'Fried Green Tomatoes'  
'Galaxy'  
'George Smith'  
'Ghost Spirit'  
'Glory '  
'Gold Drop'  
'Gold Splash Rim'  
'Golden Sculpture'  
'Grand Prize'  
'Green Angel'  
'Gypsy Rose'  
'Halcyon'  
'Hampton Blue'  
'Heart and Soul'  
'High Kicker'  
'Honeybells'  
'Josephine'  
'Komodo Dragon'  
'Lakeside Cupcake'  
'Lakeside Kaleidoscope'  
'Lakeside Roy El'  
'Lakeside Shore Master'  
'Molly J'  
'Nancy Minks'  
'Northern Exposure'  
'Platinum Tiara'  
'Praying Hands'  
'Queen Josephine'  
'Rhapsody in Blue'  
'Savannah Supreme'  
'Sea Fire'  
'Second Wind'  
'September Sun'  
'Shade Fanfare'  
'So Sweet'  
'Sparkling Burgundy'  
'Spilt Milk'  
'Summer Breeze'  
'Summer Music'  
'Torchlight'  
'Touch of Class'  
'Tu Tu'  
'Twist of Lime'  
'Velveteen'  
*venusta*  
'Wheaton Blue'  
'Wide Brim'  
'Wolverine'  
'Wooden Nickels'  
'Yellow River'

**Hostas that have**  
**disappointed**

'Tattoo' 8 votes  
'Great Expectations'

'Whirlwind' 3  
'White Christmas' 3

**2 votes each**

'Northern Halo'  
'Fair Maiden'  
'Fire and Ice'  
'Fireworks'  
'Frances Williams'  
'Golden Tiara'  
'Hoosier Harmony'  
'Spilt Milk'  
'Sun Power'

**1 vote each**

'Baby Bunting'  
'Big Momma'  
'Blue Mammoth'  
'Blue River'  
'Cat's Eye'  
'Celebration'  
'Cherry Berry'  
'Crayons'  
'Elvis Lives'  
'Geisha'  
'Grand Canyon'  
'Grey Ghost'  
'June'  
'Krossa Regal'  
'Lakeside Black Satin'  
'Liberty'  
'Pandora's Box'  
'Patriot'  
'Pooh Bear'  
'Reptillian'  
'Risky Business'  
'Sea Thunder'  
'Sunshine Glory'  
'Tea and Crumpets'  
'Wide Brim'  
'Zounds'



# Garden Tours



## Garden Tour to Hans Hansen's Garden

A tour of Hans Hansen's garden in Waseca, MN will be available to SOGHS members on **Sunday, May 20, 2007**. Transportation will be provided by members willing to carpool. This tour will meet at the **back** of the old Donaldson/Carsons building at Miracle Mile at 9:00 AM.

The sunny area of Hans Hansen's garden consists of herbaceous peonies, daylilies, rock garden plants and conifers. The shady area is home to ferns, hostas, and epimedium. The layout is informal, but grass paths provide walking areas between the beds. There are over 1,000 varieties of hostas.

Hans has been a major breeder and developer of new hostas and is in charge of plant development at Shady Oaks.

Sign up will still be possible at the April 5 SOGHS meeting or you may contact **Rita Bugler at 285-9237** or email [Ritabueg@charter.net](mailto:Ritabueg@charter.net)



**May 24**  
**Member Garden Tour**

We need member gardens to visit for our May 24 garden tour. Call Mary Herring at 282-1902 Or sign up at the April 5 meeting.

## June 30 –The Koopman Garden - Faribault

This will also be a carpooling event, leaving from the Wal-Mart North parking lot at 9 a.m. If you plan on going, can drive or would like a ride contact Barb Hunt at 281-3424, email at [barbhunt497@msn.com](mailto:barbhunt497@msn.com) or sign up at the April 5 meeting.

## Foxfire Farms/Jurustic Park Garden Tour

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is # \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$30. .... total \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Add extra names to back

# \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$35. .... total \_\_\_\_\_

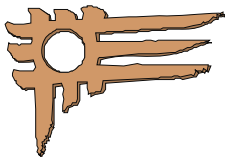
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check to:**  
**Casey Funk**  
**1615 Teton CT NE**  
**Rochester MN 55906**

total \_\_\_\_\_



### Foxfire Gardens - Marshfield WI June 3, Sunday

Foxfire Botanical Gardens is a blend of Eastern and western styles of gardening. With 15 acres, ponds and mature pines as the backdrop you will find various interpretations of these gardening styles.

Features include a waterfall, fire pit, rock gardens, a teahouse, a Torii gate and a Moongate, a fernery area, and a moss garden. Hostas, of course, are a backbone plant of the garden and are used extensively. There is also a Walter Hoover Hosta Garden, in honor of Wally, a local legend and promoter of hostas. You will also find a hosta sales area and gift shop.

This garden is one of the American Hosta Society's American Display gardens. It is truly a unique experience and beautiful garden you won't want to miss.

For a little fun and whimsy you can also visit Jurustic Park next door to see an unusual display of metal sculpture and visit the Hobbit Shop for glass, fiber and soft sculpture gifts.

Cost of \$30. (\$35. for non members) includes the bus, a light breakfast box lunch, snacks and water on the bus. You can also purchase a box lunch at the garden or bring your own.

The bus will leave from the old Econo Foods North parking lot by Sam's Club. We will leave at 6 a.m.  
<http://www.visitmarshfieldwi.com/PAGES/attractions/attractions.html> and [www.jurustic.com](http://www.jurustic.com)

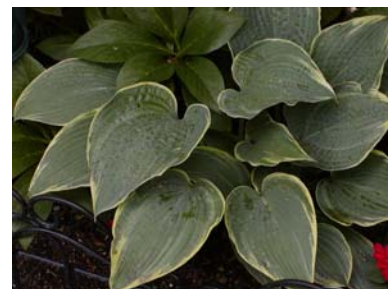
'Paradise Power'



'Big John'



'King Michael'



'Alligator Shoes'