January/February/March 2018 Issue 1, Volume 13

Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota

# The Hosta Leaf

# What a Year, but Get Ready, 2018 Is Sure to Please!

*The leaves are dropping, the trees almost bare.*
*The gardens are tended and tucked in with care.*
*The days once grew longer but they now seem too short.*
*With hopes of 'next year' and another great start.*
*Goodbye 2017, you were a good friend.*
*On the horizon a new year is about to begin.*
*May yours be everything you hoped for and more! -Kathy Rustad*

As the temperatures drop, another beautiful fall comes to an end. But what fun we had through the many activities of Shades of Green this year! There were auctions and bus rides, gardens and greenhouses to enjoy with fellow hostaholics. From educational speakers at member meetings to fun live and silent auctions, this group really knows how to make the most out of a gathering!

While we say goodbye to 2017, we will ring in a bounty of festivities in 2018 starting with the Snowflake Gala on Januray 11th. Mark your calendars. Joe and Chris Parisi are working hard with their committee to make sure an enjoyable time is had by all! The Education/Program committee, led by Chris Parisi, is busy setting up speakers and topics for another great year of useful information, and the Garden Tours committee, led by Deanna Nash, is sure to have another exciting line-up of beautiful gardens to inspire our soul. And of course, our co-chairs for the annual Plant Sale, Jenifer Magera and Paula Zollman, are getting primed and ready to kick-off another prosperous plant sale in early June!

It will be an exciting year to come but before it gets here, I hope you will all find time to relax and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Stay warm and well,

*Kathy Rustad*

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

**The cost for attending the Snowflake Gala is reduced from $18 to $15 and the event is moved up a week in hopes that Snowbirds might attend before flying the coop.** ***Details, Page 2***

***Sign Up Soon!***

## "Hosta of the Year Offerings (Also Known as HOTYs)

No, HOTY is not a misspelling of HOTTY! It's just the acronym for the SOGHS special offering of discounted prices on a preselected group of hostas made available once a year to membership. Yes, it is just another great perk to being a supporter of SOGHS.

Check the SOGHS website in late February for details on our 2018 HOTY offerings. The information and order form will also be included in the April newsletter and discussed at our April member meeting." - *Jan Gerke*

# *Shades of Green Hosta Society*
# *2018 Snowflake Gala*
# *Registration Form*

## *Thursday, January 11, 2018*
## *Willow Creek Golf & Country Club*
## *1700 48th Street SW, Rochester, MN*

- ***5:30 pm: Social Hour - Hors d'oeuvres, Cash bar***
- ***6:30 pm: Buffet Dinner - Entrée: Slow-Roasted Top Sirloin of Beef, with Mixed greens salad, Honey-glazed carrots, Herb roasted potatoes, Coffee and Dessert***

**Attendees:** (for name tags and door prize entries)

Name-1 _____

Name-2 _____

Name-3 _____

Name-4 _____

**e-mail address** (for information, updates, and weather notifications)
_____ @ _____

Tickets are $15/person. Make checks payable to ***"SOGHS"***

***Number of attendees: @ $15/person =***

Mail registration form and check by January 3, 2018 to:

***Mona Keehn***
***1635 Chippewa Dr NW***
***Rochester, MN 55901***

***Plan to join your hosta friends for an evening of fun and festivity!***

# The People Who Play Together Stay Together

## FUN, FUN, FUN!

*Photos Courtesy of Joe Parisi*

***November Social At Hy-Vee***

With the summer and fall social and educational activities winding down for our organization, we still find a way to get together and visit, exchange ideas and just stay in touch. Over 40 SOGHS members gathered in early November to enjoy great conversation and friendships.

HyVee in NW Rochester has been the host to both of our SOGHS Member Socials and serves as a great gathering spot with happy hour prices off a large menu of food and drink.

Don't miss out! Our next SOGHS Member Social is scheduled for ***March 15th, from 4-7pm at HyVee's NW location*** off County Road 22 (West Circle Drive).

We hope to see you there! – ***Kathy Rustad***

**HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE...**

# AHS National Convention

*For complete details:* Visit the www.ahs2018philly.org

**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. The convention will be jam packed with everything you expect: outstanding private gardens featuring the best in hostas and companion plants, a Hosta Show and seedling competition, a bevy of vendors and speakers, and the best of Philly music, food, and hospitality. As an extra-special treat, the entire convention will visit Longwood Gardens for a late after-noon/evening visit, so that everyone can witness the incredible new Main Fountain Garden show of water, sound, light, and fire!**

**Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia - Valley Forge**

Midwest Regional Hosta Society 2018 Convention

Hostas Play in Peoria

## MRHS 2018 Convention

Peoria, IL

*"Hostas Play in Peoria"*

July 12 - 14, 2018

# *Why You Should Join the American Hosta Society?*

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus Hosta and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four eNewsletters (emailed), and *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These Journals include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides an opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.

**Other membership benefits:**

A Biennial AHS Membership Directory.

The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.

An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.

Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas. Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

**Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for $15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. For information about this program, go to**
http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm

**Print and mail the application form on the next page, or to join online, go to**
http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm **.**

# Membership: Is It Worth The $10 Annual Fee?

I'm sure many of you have asked this question. Well let's look at what that SOGHS membership gets you.

- You are joining a fun group of people who have similar interests.
- We have 3 educational meetings per year.
  - a) With a business meeting
  - b) A speaker
  - c) Refreshments
  - d) Door prizes
- We have 2 social events (One in the Spring, one in the Fall)
- We have a Spring Open house
  - a) With an educational part
  - b) A silent auction
  - c) You get to tour a Great garden
  - d) You get to visit old friends and make new
  - e) Refreshments
- We have a Fall Founder's Day picnic
  - a) A potluck lunch
  - b) Gardens to tour
  - c) Silent auction
  - d) Live auction
  - e) Door prizes
  - f) You get to visit old friends and make new
- We have a Spring HOTY (Hosta of the year) Sale

This sale sells new cultivars to members at less than retail prices

- We have a Fall Scratch and Dent Sale (Year-end closeout plants sold below retail)
- We have a Spring Plant Sale
- We have a spring bus tour
- We have two summer garden tours of members gardens
- We have a late summer carpool tour
- We have a Snowflake Gala in January
- You receive four newsletters a year

Yes! I think it is worth the $10 membership fee. If you only take advantage of the HOTY and Scratch and Dent sale you would save more than $10.

Come join us for Fun and Friendship.

The Hosta is the Friendship Plant. – *Dave Cocker*

## Tentative Schedule for Tours

Deanna Nash and her committee have the following tours tentatively scheduled:

May 5 : Car Pool to K&K, Fox Produce and In the Country Garden and Gifts
May 7 & 9: Car Pool to Mennonite Nursery's in IA
June 16 : Bus Tour
June 36 and 27 " Member Garden Tour
July 8 : Car Pool Tour
August 3-4: Overnight Car Pool Tour

# 2018 SOGHS Board

- President – Kathy Rustad kdrustad@gmail.com
- 1st Vice President/Garden Tours – Deanna Nash mamasaninrst@aol.com
- 2nd Vice President/Programs/Education – Chris Parisi casaparisi@charter.net
- 3rd Vice Present/Membership/Promotions – Genella Mussell mayflower987kr@hotmail.com
- Secretary – Cindy Tomashek prestonplants@aol.com
- Treasurer – Mona Keehn Chum721@gmail.com
- Plant Sale – Paula Zollman and Jenifer Magera Zollman.paula@mayo.edu Magera.jenifer@mayo.edu
- Hospitality – Linda Brech mnbrech@charter.net
- Webmaster – Dave Cocker djspaniel@hotmal.com
- Newsletter – Mary Lanier mdlanier@charter.net

# Here's Your Chance For SOGHS Logowear!

*Find Order Form for the Logowear on Page 9*

It's been a while since we've had a SOGHS Logowear offering for you. Read on if you've been wanting a hat or shirt or maybe a jacket with the SOGHS logo on it!

This offering is being made through our friend and fellow SOGHS member, Barb Armbruster. Barb will bring samples of the offered items to both our February and April meetings, so you can check the quality and sizing. If you can't be at one of these meetings and have questions, feel free to call Barb at (507)292-6277.

Or, if you have something of your own which you would like our SOGHS logo on, Barb will do that for you (no leather, please) for $8.09 (tax included) per item. Give her a call to discuss it.

LogoWear orders may be placed directly with Barb at our February or April meetings, or through April 30th by mailing your order form and payment to Barb. If you want an item (such as a cap or apron) that isn't size dependent, there is no need to wait until the meeting. Just fill out the order form in this newsletter and mail it with your check (payable to SparroWorks, LLC) to Barb Armbruster at 1200 NE 81st St, Rochester, MN 55906.

As you have probably guessed, this is not a fundraiser for SOGHS. It is an opportunity for you to get a functional and unique item to wear. We will get some great publicity if you wear it out and about town! - *Jan Gerke*

# Karen Noltee Earns AHS Award for Years of Service

**Past President Cindy Tomashek, left, presents Karen Noltee with the American Hosta Association Certificate of Appreciation Award at the October meeting. *(Photo by Jan Gerke)***

Each year, the American Hosta Society asks local societies to nominate up to two members for recognition as outstanding volunteers to receive the AHS Appreciation Award. At our October meeting, it was my great pleasure to recognize Karen Noltee as our nominee for this award.

Karen's contributions to SOGHS have been enduring, self-sacrificing and enhancing to Shades of Green Hosta Society beyond measure. Besides being a charter member and assisting with getting SOGHS organized, Karen and husband Denny hosted the very first SOGHS plant sale in their yard and continue to help with the plant sale every year, including creating the vast library of laminated plant signs.

Other roles Karen has filled include Membership/Promotions (creating colorful flyers and other marketing materials), Snowflake Gala committee, assisting with SOGHS Tours, working on the 2018 Spring Seminar, creating digital versions of our early scrapbooks, assisting with the State Fair exhibit, the display garden at RCTC, and contributing ideas as a member to various other committees…truly mind-boggling!

Karen has also encouraged members to enter exhibits at the County Fair, having herself shown hostas in all areas (cut leaf, container, floral arrangements) so the community can see the wonderful ways to use hosta. She is awesome at welcoming new members and making them feel a part of the group. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, friendliness and countless volunteer hours have helped shape SOGHS into the thriving group it is today.

Along with AHS, I extend my warm appreciation and hearty congratulations on behalf of SOGHS, to Karen Noltee!

*Cindy Tomashek,* Past President

# Things to Know about Soil Amendments

Let's take a look at what some experts in the field say about how to prepare the soil for planting your new hostas.
Bob Solberg from Green Hill Farm says, "The most important ingredient in successful hosta growing is bed preparation. Good hosta soil should remain moist after a good rain yet drain well. It should have enough organic matter to provide plenty of air spaces for vigorous root growth but be firm enough to discourage voles and other rodents."
Tony Avent from Plant Delights writes, "One of the easiest ways to convert less than desirable soils to productive growing environments is through the incorporation of organic matter. Organic matter is basically something that used to be alive. For most gardeners, this could mean a variety of materials from peat moss to compost to manure."

Rob Mortko from Made in the Shade Gardens posts, "Work organic matter (I prefer spaghnum peat) into the soil at the time of planting. Hosta prefer well-drained soil that is slightly acidic, but thrive even in our alkaline clay soil."
The University of Minnesota Extension states, "Hostas prefer rich, moist soil that is high in organic matter, yet well drained. Having a soil test done prior to planting can be valuable in understanding soil condition and providing recommendations of what amendments can be added to obtain the optimum nutrient levels and pH range. Adding organic materials such as peat, composted manure, or leaves will help improve soil structure and tilth. That said, hostas are generally adaptable and survive in a wide range of soils, adding to their ease of growing and popularity."
The AHS website lists the following: "As the result of discussions at various local and national meetings and responses to questionnaires, it appears that a majority of persons rototill the soil down 12-18 inches and amend it with peat humus, larger size organic material and some coarse sand. In clay soil, sand alone actually will make the soil harder than it already is, stunting root development."
Fall
–In The Hosta Adventure: A Growers Guide, Third Edition, the following is written, "Hostas benefit from large additions of organic matter such as garden compost, leaf mold, well-rotted manure, composted pine bark and peat moss –in the planting hole, especially if the soil is heavy clay or light and sandy." So, it seems that those who know how to grow hostas well agree that organic matter is key in preparing the garden bed for your new hostas.
I think we all know what garden compost is. But what about leaf mold? Moldy leaves? No, leaf mold is the result of letting leaves sit and decompose over time. It is dark brown to black, has a pleasant earthy aroma and a crumbly texture, much like compost. In fact, leaf mold is just that: composted leaves. Instead of adding a bunch of organic matter to a pile, you just use leaves.
By "well rotted manure," what is meant is that the manure has sat and composted for a period of time. When it has "cooked," i.e. composted, it has very little odor, compared to raw or fresh manure. Horse manure may take several months to be "well rotted." Horse farms often will give away manure if you are able to haul it away. Sawdust as bedding is preferred, as there are fewer weed seeds contained in the manure than manure mixed with straw. The big box stores often sell composted cow or horse manure in bags, a much more convenient source for most gardeners.
Pine bark or pine bark fines are usually available at the nursery department of the big box stores. Another great source of organic matter is sawdust. If you live near a sawmill or have a woodworker in the neighborhood, ask about getting some free sawdust for your garden.
How much organic material should you add to the soil? Most experts say that at least one third of the mix in the hole where you are placing the hosta should be organic matter.
According to the AHS website, a mixture that seems quite common is:
1/3 native soil (the stuff already in the hole)
1/3 peat moss or other composted material
1/3 pine bark fines (or other larger material such as hardwood bark)
If preparing a bed, till the bed then add enough
of the organic material to equal two thirds of
the native soil that has been tilled. If planting a single hosta in a hole, add the organic materials and thoroughly mix with the native soil before planting your hosta.

***Reprinted with permission from The American Hosta Society eNewsletter***

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ORDER YOUR NAMETAGS**
**SEND $10 DUES TO: GENNELLA MUSSELL**
**43717 172 AVENUE WAY**
**ZUMBROTA, MN 55992**

SOGHS 2018 LogoWear Order sheet

SparroWorks, LLC
Barb Armbruster

1200 NE 81 ST, Rochester, MN
507-292-6277

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men's Sport-Tek® Sport-Wick® Fleece Full-Zip Jacket ST241. 100% polyester, moisture-wicking, anti-static fleece. *(Available in* ***black****, grey, red, navy, royal, white)* | Price: $35 | Size (XS-4XL) | Color | Quantity |
| | Sport-Tek® Ladies Sport-Wick® Fleece Full-Zip Jacket. LST238 100% polyester, moisture-wicking, anti-static fleece. *(Available in black,* ***grey****, red, navy, royal, white)* | Price: $35 | Size (XS-4XL) | Color | Quantity |
| | Columbia Tamiami II Long Sleeve Shirt. 100% polyester ripstop; Omi-Shade UPF40; Omni-Wick moisture management; mesh-lined vent at center badk, convertible sleeves; chest pockets with snap closure. (*Available in white, black, cool grey, fossil, gulf stream,* ***key west****, sail, and vivid blue.* ) | Price: $50 | Size (S-3XL) | Color | Quantity |
| | Columbia Tamiami II Ladies Long Sleeve Shirt. (Same features as men's shirt.) *(Available in white,* ***clear blue****, white cap blue.)* | Price: $50 | Size (XS-3XL) | Color | Quantity |
| | Port Authority® Outdoor Wide-Brim Hat. No Fly Zone insect repellent; UPF 30+ sun protection; 75/25 poly/nylon ripstop, adjustable shock cord; concealable sun flap and moisture wicking sweatband; foam brim keeps it afloat in water. *(Available in coffee cream,* ***olive****.)* | Price: $20 | S/M or L/XL | Color | Quantity |
| | Port & Company® -Two-Tone Pigment-Dyed Cap. CP83 ***khaki/hunter*** | Price: $14 | Adjustable | Color | Quantity |
| | Edwards 3-Pocket Waist Apron; 65% polyester/35% cotton twill; 11" long by 23" wide. *(Available in hunter and* ***khaki****.)* | Price: $12 | | | Quantity |
| | Embroider logo on customer-supplied items | Price: $8.09 (includes sales tax) | | | |
| | Name | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Phone | | | | |
| | e-mail | | | | |
| | Date | | | | |
| | Total Due | | | | |
| | | | | | |

**OPEN LETTER CALLS FOR MEMBERS TO STAR IN FEBRUARY'S MEETING PROGRAM**

**Dear Members:**
**The education committee, in recognizing the magnitude of expertise within our club, is soliciting your advice. We would like your suggestions & advice for planning, planting & sustaining hosta gardens. Presentation of these will comprise our February program & MAYBE lead to a SOGHS publication for future references.**
**The Education Committee: Jan Gerke, Kim Greene, Kris Hust, Peg Marchesani, Chris Parisi**
**Please send all suggestions to:**
**Chris Parisi**
**Text: (507)368-7358; Email: Casaparisi@charter.net; Mail: 3200 Wright Rd SW, Rochester, MN 55902**
**Or drop in provided box @ Snowflake Gala on January 11th, 2018, at Willow Creek Golf Club**
**DEADLINE: January 25th, 2018**

# SOGHS 2018 Calendar of Events

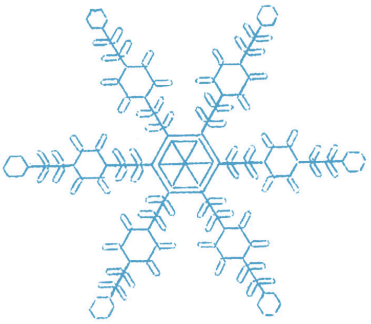
- ***January 11 - Snowflake Gala, Willow Creek Golf Course, 5:30 PM***

- ***February 8 - Member meeting***

- ***March 15 - Social Event***
- ***March 15 - Newsletter deadline for April/May/June newsletter***
- ***March 16-17 - Great Lakes Hosta College, Piqua, OH***
- ***March 29 - Executive Board meeting***

- ***April 5 - Member meeting***

- ***May 1 - Public sign-up for June SOGHS bus tour***
- ***May 5 - Car pool to K&K, Fox Produce and In the Country Gardens and Gifts***
- ***May 7&9 - Car Pool to Mennonite Nursery's in IA***
- ***May 24 - Spring Open House TBD***



**Welcome to our newest members!**

Katie King--Rochester
Carol Naatz--Rochester
Candace Becker--Rochester
Mike and Donna Gaffey--Riceville, IA
John and Cindy Mennenga--Rochester
Patty Ronan--Rochester
Kelly Tweite-- Rochester

Mary Lanier
Shades of Green Hosta Society
1101 20th St NW
Rochester, MN 55901