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We're Off to a Good Start With Nursery Stops and Plant Sale

The summer is in full swing and oh my, aren't the hostas looking lovely? And what a generous donation of those lovely hostas at the annual SOGHS Hosta Sale. The Horticulture Building at the fair grounds was home to a spectacular display of every shade of green under the sun. When contemplating possible purchases, it was hard to stay within budget, so I had to keep reminding myself, "There is always next year. "



A HUGE thank you goes to Jen Magera and Paula Zollman for their leadership, time and energy spent planning and executing a very successful Hosta Sale. And to the many volunteers who donated time, hostas, food and much, much more to make the event not only profitable but also a fun social event, I sincerely thank you.

The Tour Committee has been extremely busy as well with a wonderful line-up this summer. So far, the Iowa Nurseries were a big hit as was St. Charles. If you have not had a chance to join in on the fun, it's not too late. Checkout the summer line-up at our website: soghs.org. There is more fun to come!

Warm and welcoming, Jan Gerke and Gordy Haubenchild opened their beautiful gardens for our Spring Open House on May 24th. It was the perfect evening as the weather finally behaved itself for enjoyment of food (awesome job, Linda Brech!), silent auction, door prizes and great casual conversation! Jan and Gordy, you outdid yourselves, and we are so grateful for your hospitality.

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Scratch and Dent Hostas Anyone? Stay Tuned!



Watch our SOGHS website for information on our Scratch and Dent offerings. The plan is they will be sourced once again from our friend, Bob Solberg, at Green Hill Hostas in North Carolina. While I have no information to share at this time, come mid to late August, there should be news on the offering posted on our website. These plants usually look pretty beat up (hence the name "Scratch and Dent"), but you can't beat their root systems. And the prices are amazing!

Thanks, everyone, for your support of our prior Scratch and Dent offerings, as well as our HOTY offerings, of course. If there are any suggestions on ways the offerings could be changed, please don't hesitate to speak up!

Your friendly hosta pusher, Jan Gerke - member fundraising

Brief History of Shades of Green Hosta Society

Our organization was formed in 2005 by a small group of people, led by SOGHS founder Cindy Tomashek, who shared a common interest in the genus Hosta. There were 40 charter members. Since then our organization has grown to over 150 members.

We meet to discuss the growth and care of hostas as well as use of hostas in our landscapes. We go on member garden tours to see the mature characteristics of named hostas and unique use in their landscapes. And we hear speakers at our meetings to improve our education on hostas and gardening in general. There are opportunities to purchase hostas at several events, and our annual plant sale in June is our main fund raiser.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As I write this, the American Hosta Society's National Convention is right around the corner in Philadelphia, PA, June 20-23. This will be my very first national convention and I can hardly wait! Following soon after will be the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention July 12-14 in Peoria, IL. That will be a load of fun as well. And so much more is to come.....

OK, so perhaps I am getting closer to qualifying as an honest-to-goodness hostaholic. What a thrill I had earlier this week when my very own copy of "The Hostapedia" by Mark Zilis showed up in the mail. It was hard to tear myself away from the glorious pages and get anything else done. And speaking of getting anything else done, I'll close for now and wish you all an enjoyable summer filled with warm days, friends and family.

May the sun shine brightly on your garden and the rain fall gently at night.

Kathy Rustad, President

GARDEN FAIR REPORT

In keeping with our mission of education, we had an information booth at the Garden Fair on Saturday, June 2. It was well worth the time as we advertised the Hosta Sale, gave away free Francee Hostas and educated members on Hostas as well as opportunities to join our fun-loving group of Hostaholics.

Paula Zollman brought us a car full of Hostas from the plant sale that we sold for \$3 each.

We raised a little money, but more importantly, we spread the hosta love. – *Kathy Rustad, President*

American Hosta Society Membership

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. ([See "Sample Article"](#)).

Other membership benefits:

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

<u>Membership Rates (USA)</u>		
Type	Term	Cost
Individual	one year	\$30
Individual	three years	\$80
Individual	five years	\$129
Individual	lifetime	\$900
Individual	e-membership	\$20
Family	one year	\$34
Family	three years	\$90
Family	five years	\$146

Effective midnight EDT on August 31, 2017, all new and renewal membership registrations will be assigned to calendar year 2018. No 2017 memberships will be available after August 31, 2017. Individuals who join/renew after that time will receive the regular welcome letter advising them of the effective date of their membership (but providing them with the 2017 password) as well as a copy of *The Hosta Adventure*.

Late Renewal Notice - In order to attempt to reduce the current practice of late renewals and offset the cost of mailings to late renewals, a \$5.00 fee will be added to all membership renewals postmarked or paid online after midnight EST on February 15, 2018.

Membership Year is January 1 through December 31

[Click here to Join the AHS or Renew your Membership Online](#)

Or mail your dues to:

Membership Secretary:
[Sandie Markland](#)
AHS Membership Secretary
Post Office Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

A Big Thank You to All Involved

Volunteers Keep the Hosta Sale And SOGHS Strong

The Shades of Green Hosta Society hosta sale for 2018 experienced changes, both welcomed and forlorn. It was with some trepidation that perennials were omitted from the sale. The reasoning was we were using valuable real estate, table/floor space, for selling perennials at \$2 to \$7 a pot when we could be selling hostas at \$5 to \$25 a pot. Because it was distressing to throw away a large amount of perennials at the end of the sale in 2017, the decision to eliminate companion plants just made sense.

The floor plan was also different this year, thanks to Dave Cocker's insight and planning. The dividers used by 4-H'ers to set up during the Olmsted County Fair were removed. This allowed an open floor plan and great sight lines for shoppers. The food area was moved to the back, allowing all SOGHS members to snack and replenish in peace without feeling like they should be sharing with shoppers. Our cashiers were moved to the adjacent side of the building from 2017, allowing them more space than in previous years. The new layout was a success, though a few minor modifications will be made next year.

Denice Cocker's artistic touch is on every part of our sale, including alphabet markers and crocheted covers for the alphabet placeholders. Denice kept on working even with a bad knee and made many insightful suggestions to Jenifer and me.



Jean Meyer and Kurt Johnson helped to make sure the hostas for sale were correctly identified. The team of people who worked with them to get the correct tags and information on the hostas and out to the tables was efficient and detailed. There were many individuals that brought questions and plants to Jean and Kurt for verification or horticulture hygiene. How smart we have all become as a result of the great speakers and education provided by SOGHS!

Jean Meyer confirmed that we had approximately 195 varieties of hosta at our sale this year. With this kind of selection to choose from, customers found many varieties they had been looking for or had never heard of before. Denice and Dave Cocker added something new to the hosta sale this year with bagged hostas. The two hostas, Krossa Cream Edge and Elegans were not potted but placed in plastic bags with moisture and marked at a reduced price. Every single one of them sold at \$2 each!

Each year there are members who go above and beyond to help us with the sale but **Dave and Denice Cocker and Jean and Gerry Meyer need special mention. These two couples donate hundreds of plants each year.** Please take time to thank them for so generously supporting SOGHS.

Linda Brech and her team provided us with such a wonderful banquet of eats and treats. If anyone was hungry it was not due to lack of offerings. Fresh fruit, pasta salads, chips, sloppy Joe's, cake, bars, hot pastries, deviled eggs, water, coffee and beverages were just a few of the amazing *pièces de résistance*.

The net gain from the 2018 SOGHS sale was almost \$9,000. The average SOGHS hosta sale has been around \$6,000 with our largest sale totaling \$12,000. We can call it a better-than-average and successful sale.

Our members are our strongest asset. They have done it all, from digging and donating hostas from their gardens, providing sustenance at the sale, identifying hostas, categorizing, sweeping, cleaning pots, cleaning pricing sticks, covering tables and collecting money. The list could go on and on. Members make this sale. Jenifer Megara and Paula Zollman may have been the coordinators of the hosta sale but it was the members who came through in spades, *shovel spades that is!*

Jenifer kicked off our sale at the January 2018 SOGHS meeting by asking for your help. May I say, "We couldn't have done it without you." I guess that means Jenifer and I are your ring leaders again next year!

Thank you for supporting Shades of Green Hosta Society with your energy and time.

***Shades of Green Hosta Society Hosta Sale Co-Chairs -
Jenifer Magera and Paula Zollman***

(See Photos, Page 5; Thank-You Note, Page 9)



PHOTO CREDIT:
Chris Parisi,
Paula Zollman

These smiling volunteers worked hard to make sure the annual plant sale on June 2 was a success. They are, above, left to right, Joyce Malinowski, Chris Peterson, Deanna Nash, Sue Martino, and June Stoehr.



Linda Brech, in the blue, kept us fed and watered!



Plant Sale co-chairs, Jenifer Mageras, center photo, and Paula Zollman, right photo, put in the time for a great sale.



SOGHS Mission Statement

The Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast MN, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed to educate members about hosta selection, cultivation and nomenclature, new and improved varieties, uses in the home landscape, and to promote interest in the genus Hosta.

The Mission shall be supported through the publication of a Society Newsletter, educational programs and garden tours, a web page and other group activities throughout the year.

Let's Take a Look at What's Bugging the Bees

Bees have come to the forefront in agricultural concerns because of their dwindling numbers and the attrition rate of over-wintering hives. Most concerns are centered on the plight of the European honey bee, the species that makes honey and pollinates many of our crops. Pollinators should matter to all of us, not only for the health of ecosystems around us, but also because of the food we eat. Bees are necessary for pollinating foods such as apples, strawberries, raspberries, and for creating seeds like onions, carrots and alfalfa that help support our meat and dairy industries.

Fun Fact: One of every three bites of food requires a pollinator.

Research conducted in Central Illinois compared historical bee records starting in the late 1880s to bee surveys conducted in 2009 and 2010. In the 1880s the land was primarily prairies and forests. Currently, the land is used for agriculture. In the late 1890s, 109 bee species were present. However in 2009/2010, only 54 species were found, a decrease of over 50 percent.

Not only was there a decrease in bee species but also the number of flowering plants and nesting sites was reduced. Agriculture practices bring in monocultures, a large group of one kind of plant: corn or soy beans. However this also creates a food desert for bees, fewer plants to forage.

Loss of our bees is a complex problem. There is no simple answer for complex problems but rather many factors need to be addressed to help our pollinator populations. Some of the areas that need to be looked at are:

1. Pests and Pathogens:
 - a. Pesticide residues have been found in pollen and honey
 - b. Fungicide-consumed pollen by bees increased fungal infection in bees
 - c. Varroa mites (pictured on bee in photo at right) decimate colonies
2. Poor nutrition:
 - a. Nectar and pollen are very important to bee sustainability. A lack of proper nutrition often occurs due to a loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation due to agricultural monocultures and urbanization, creating food deserts for bees.
3. Neonicotinoids:
 - a. Very common type of insecticide, which is systemic in the plant so that all parts of the plant are lethal. Neonicotinoids may not kill bees outright but can have sub-lethal effects in lower concentrations by impairing memory and learning; disorientation and difficulties in returning to their hives.
4. Climate Change
 - a. An analysis of bee collection dated over the past 130 years shows that spring arrives about 10 days earlier than in the 1880s. So far bees and plants have been able to keep pace.



Minnesota has 400 different species of native bees, 65 of which are bumble bees. Native bees look and act quite differently than honey bees. Most are solitary, and nest in the ground, under rocks, in discarded plant material, or other natural crevices. They can vary in colors and sizes.

In addition there are specific flies that act as pollinators, too! Please don't forget all the pollinating butterflies, moths, wasps, and beetles that keep our native plant populations healthy.

You can help our pollinators by planting pollinator friendly plants by using some of the following steps:

1. Use the "power of your dollar" by avoiding plants that are treated with neonicotinoids.
2. Before you reach for pesticides consider: mechanical removal of pest; is damage cosmetic or lethal; is the plant a favorite or can you sacrifice it? Always follow label directions on the pesticide container and avoid drift.
3. Decrease use of plants that have been bred to have multi-petals. While they are lovely, more petals make it harder for pollinators to collect nectar and pollen.



Mason Bee Pictured at Left

(Bee Article Continued on Page 7)

‘No, That Is a Leafless Hosta, NOT Rhubarb’

One morning not too long ago, a neighbor gave me a ride to the gym. I got in her car, and she said, “What’s that? Rhubarb?” I had no earthly idea what she was talking about. Turns out that the box of hostas I had purchased at the plant sale had been taken off the deck and placed on the lawn by “the guys” who power washed our deck the day before. My lovely H. ‘Regalia’ that Jean Meyer suggested I purchase (and I love it) was now leafless. Straight, naked stalks stood saluting the sky. Just days before I had sprayed the entire garden with Jane Yunginger’s Deer Deterrent Recipe and the plants I had sprayed were not bothered. So, if you have people asking about the rhubarb in your gardens, you may appreciate this recipe, too. It works. Thanks, once again, Jane.

- *Mary Lanier, Newsletter Editor*

DEER DETERRENT

1 Tablespoon BLUE Dawn dishwashing liquid

1 Tablespoon vegetable oil

1 Egg

1 Cup Milk

Mix these ingredients thoroughly. (I whirl mine in the blender.)

Pour into a gallon milk jug and fill the remainder of the container with water. Shake thoroughly. Pour mixture into spray container. I use a gallon-size hand-held sprayer.



Apply weekly for maximum results, especially during initial growing phase. Mixture may be refrigerated but it is not necessary. I find this concoction to be less odiferous than commercial liquid deer deterrents.

The Plight of the Bumble Bee and What We Can Do to Help



Continued From Page 6

4. Use natives when you can because specific native bees need these plants to survive.
5. Group plants in three to five plants. Bees stay with one species of plant when collecting pollen during a foraging trip. This increases pollination among plants and nutrition for bees.
6. Think about making a bee lawn containing clover, and other small flowering plants. The University of Minnesota has many examples.
7. Don't over clean: Leave some plant material for native bees, undisturbed soil for ground nesting, or provide nesting boxes.
8. **Leave those hosta flowers for bees.**

So next time you walk through your garden take a moment to observe the different pollinators that are visiting your flowers. Think about how you can support your pollinators. Do you have a variety of flowers to feed pollinators all season long? Can you decrease use of pesticides? Would you be willing to create a pollinator's oasis in the bee's fragmented environment?

Good luck and happy pollinating

Paula Zollman, Olmsted County Master Gardener

As I was strolling through the Horticulture Building looking at the offerings of our annual plant sale a few weeks ago at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds, it struck me how many hostas share similar names that could be grouped into a theme garden. On further examination, it occurred to me that there are any number of themed gardens one could build based on the names of hostas. Have fun looking through the examples featured on our SOGHS website: Clicking on any of the links below will take you on a delightful hosta tour. While you are at it, take time to investigate the other links on our website. Oh, the places you will go! – *Mary Lanier, Newsletter Editor*

Hosta Themed Gardens: *Lists of Plants to Include*

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| American Indians Garden UPDATED | Farmer's Garden | Patriotic Garden |
| Amusement Park Garden | Firefighter's Garden | Prehistoric Garden UPDATED |
| Angel Garden UPDATED | Fisherman's Garden | Presidential Garden |
| Arctic Garden | French Garden UPDATED | Railroad Engineer's Garden |
| Artist's Garden UPDATED | Gambler's/Card Player's Garden | UPDATED |
| Astronomer's Garden UPDATED | Garment Garden UPDATED | Religious / Biblical Garden |
| Athlete's/Sports Lover's Garden | Geographer's Garden UPDATED | Rock and Roll Garden |
| Automobiles / Auto Mechanic's Garden | German Garden | Romance/Marriage/Sex Garden |
| GardenPaisley Art | Gourmet's / Food Garden UPDATED | UPDATED |
| Aviator's GardenPaisley Art | Greek Mythology Garden UPDATED | Royalty Garden UPDATED |
| Banker's / Accountant's Garden | Halloween Garden | Sewer's Garden UPDATED |
| Bartender's Garden UPDATED | Hunter's Garden | Sleeper's/Dreamer's Garden |
| Boater's Garden UPDATED | Jeweler's Garden UPDATED | UPDATED |
| Children's/Toy Garden UPDATED | Medical Doctor's Garden | Soldier's/Warrior's Garden |
| Christmas Garden UPDATED | Memorial Garden UPDATED | UPDATED |
| Cowboy's Garden UPDATED | Meteorologist's/Weather Forecaster's Garden | Song Garden UPDATED |
| Dancer's/Entertainer's Garden | Mineralogist's/Gemologist's Garden | Spanish Garden |
| Desert Garden | Miner's/Prospector's Garden UPDATED | Spring Garden |
| Fall Garden | Moon Garden UPDATED | Star Trek/Star Wars Garden |
| Family Garden UPDATED | Musician's Garden UPDATED | UPDATED |
| Famous Actors Garden | Nursery Rhymes / Children's Stories and Books Garden | Summer Garden UPDATED |
| Famous Celebrities/Singers Garden | Olympian's Garden | Time Keeper's Garden UPDATED |
| | | TV/Movie Watcher's Garden |
| | | UPDATED |
| | | Wedding Garden UPDATED |
| | | Wild West Garden |
| | | Winter Garden |
| | | Zoologist's/Animal Garden |
| | | UPDATED |

Logowear Hats and Jackets Were the Items Most Purchased

For those of you who chose to take advantage of our logowear offering, thank you for your interest! I hope you are getting good use from the items you purchased. The jackets and hats were the most popular items ordered. As of our SOGHS hosta sale, Barb Armbruster had a few orders that were not yet picked up. If you are one of them, please make plans with Barb (she can be reached at her SparroWorks phone number, 507-292-6277) to do so. While we closed the order window as of the end of April, if you missed it for some reason or if you have questions about the offering, feel free to contact Barb.

Jan Gerke, Member Fundraising

Reminder: Pick up your orders from Barb Armbruster



A Big Thank You. . . and a Little History

On June 2, 2018, SOGHS held its annual plant sale. This was our 13th sale, and like the first one, it was a “hostas only” sale. I would like to thank everyone who has been part of these sales, whether this was your first or you have been part of all 13 or any number in between. A special thank you to Karen Noltee who let the club use her front yard for the first sale. She has also been a part of organizing the plants for every sale since.

This year's sale was a success thanks to the hard work of our plant sale chairs, Paula Zollman and Jenifer Magera. This was their first year being in charge of the sale, and they did an excellent job. I'm sure at times they wondered what they had gotten themselves into, but they came through with a great sale. I'm sure they learned a lot and already have ideas for next year's sale.

The other part of a successful sale is all the volunteers who help. We have a great group of people who donate plants, food, and, most importantly, their time. Hopefully we all have fun doing it.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the sale successful. - ***Dave Cocker, Webmaster***



Member Garden Tour - Don't Miss It!

- Tuesday, July 17, 2018
5:00 - 8:30 pm

Dennis and Karen Noltee
(507-288-6730)
3617 1st St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Directions: Take West Circle Dr. (Cty Rd 22) to 2nd St SW and turn west on

Cty Rd 34. turn on 36th Ave NW into Country Club Manor right after Andy's Liquor. Turn left on 1st St NW, and the Noltee home is 2nd house on right.

Description: Visit the Noltee's small city lot to meet Frick and Frack who are on Rabbit Patrol guarding the garden beds of 100 hosta, clematis and heuchera with lilies sprinkled here and there among many other perennials. You will find a mini hosta bed in back right next to Karen's collections of Fairy Gardens. (Denny is still searching for a 12-step program for Fairy Garden addicts...without success!!!)

Valinda Wondrasch and husband Pat
(507-289-0234)
3931 5th Place NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Directions: From West Circle Dr. go past Harriet Bishop School and turn on 5th Street. Go one block and turn right on 5th Place. Go up the street and find green house with tan trim on the right side of the street.

Description: Pat and Valinda wanted to turn their back yard into a private retreat on a small hilly lot for birds, butterflies and themselves. They put in a patio with a pergola and a fire pit. There is small shade garden behind the house and a fairly steep hill at the back of the yard filled with grasses, rudbeckia, and echinacea. Other gardens have Joe-Pye weed, bee balm, coreopsis, grasses, turtlehead, and more. There is a group of native plants at the bottom of the hill before the Bioswale with sedge, baptisia, clematis, and other native plants. There is room for a vegetable, herb, strawberry and raspberry beds and a raised bed for tomatoes. Everything is fenced due to the family of rabbits that live under the shed. Many of the plants came with Valinda from Wisconsin but have been added to with trips to Iowa, Wisconsin and to nurseries in Minnesota. The front yard garden is new as the back yard is full!!!

Rick and Susy Olsen
(507-281-4469)
1427 15th Ave NW, Rochester 55901

Directions: From Highway 52 N take the 19th Street exit. Going East, merge onto Assisi Dr/11th Ave. at the stoplights. Turn right at the next stoplight onto 14th Street. Turn right onto 15th Street.

Description: Established in 1990 on a small city lot with a grassy lawn, a few raised beds, a spattering of perennials, 3 young trees in the back and a couple of homely arborvitae in the front and an exceptional clump birch. As their 3 children grew, the yard evolved and changed as well. Initially a rose bush and a Japanese lilac joined the birch and, with the help of the John Marshall horticulture class, the grass in the front yard was eradicated and the soil top dressed, leveled and stepping stones placed. SOGHS was discovered and a new passion for hosta began in 2007. The hosta collection went from 5 very common hostas to well over 200 now. Clematis, heuchera, lillium, martagan lilies, tender bulbs, sempervivum and many woody plants fit in where they can. There is an interesting little collection of mini trees including tree peonies dwarf ginkgo, weeping larch, Japanese and Korean maple, dwarf bald cypress, a Zone 5 beauty berry, wisteria and a Horstmann's Silberlocke Korean fir (a one of a kind witches broom) along with about 40 other small trees. With the theme of having fun central, a teepee supports yard-long beans, homeowner chimes and copper art and mosaic sculptures including a dragon, a climbing tree, swings for 8 grandchildren, two green roofs-one shading a sandbox, a fairy tree "condo" and numerous water features, and of course, a fairy village,

Unique to this property is Rochester's only life-sized Candyland game-painted on the driveway in 2017.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION

HOSTAS PLAY IN PEORIA July 12 - 14, 2018 Peoria, IL

- Deanna Nash, Tours

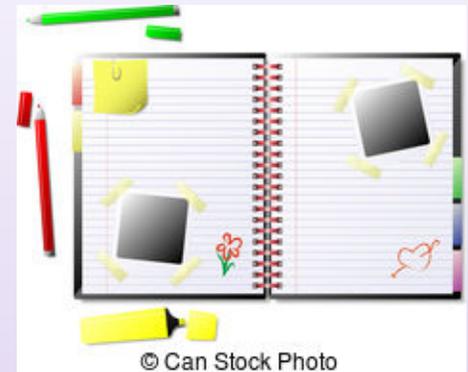
Shutterbugs, We Need You to Help Document Our Story!

Want to relive some of our good times from last year? Look for the 2017 SOGHS Shutterfly book at our various 2018 events. Here's a big "Thank You" to all those who shared their talents and provided pictures for use in the book!

If you enjoy photography, please take some pictures when you attend our 2018 SOGHS events. Pick out your favorites (plant/garden based or maybe friends having a good time). Get them to either Jan Gerke or Linda Brech (on a DVD, USB stick, or even via email if there are just a few). We'll happily accept them anytime during the year. By the way, if you want to help create our Shutterfly books, just let us know!

Jan can be reached at (507)259-7096, janice.gerke@gmail.com and Linda can be reached at (507)358-3839, mnbrech@charter.net.

Jan Gerke and Linda Brech



© Can Stock Photo

Master Gardeners Host Garden Tour in July

'Tour with the Masters, 2018' is an Olmsted County annual garden tour that provides access to 6 unique gardens (4 private gardens and 2 public garden) sponsored by the University of Minnesota Olmsted County Extension Master Gardeners on July 25, 2018 in the Northeast area of Rochester, made up of perennials, annuals, vegetable gardens, grasses, native plants, and rainwater features! The University of Minnesota Master Gardeners of Olmsted County will be in each garden to answer questions. There will be educational displays and opportunities in each of the gardens, as well as samples of food made from garden produce, complete with recipes and growing tips, as well!

Educational offerings include: invasive plant control, rain gardening, growing herbs, gardening on a hillside, attracting birds, plants and pollinators and more. For a list and description of the gardens go to www.co.olmsted.mn.us/extension. Click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Events. The tour is offered only on Wednesday, July 25th, 2018 -- Rain or Shine!"

Rob Mortko, 'The Hosta Guy,' Explains Tissue Culture

Rob Mortko, better known as "The Hosta Guy" gave a presentation on up and coming hostas and brought a truckload of hostas to the SOGHS April meeting. Just a few of my purchases were H. 'Skywriter', H. 'Miss Susie' and H. 'A Wrinkle in Time'. Made in the Shade Gardens is a home-based business founded in 2000 by Rob Mortko (aka "The Hosta Guy") and his wife Sheri. Starting in 2018, Trey Rutledge began operating the retail side of Made in the Shade. Rob now operates the wholesale tissue culture side of the business. He encourages horticulture grads to enter the field. Rob explained his timeline of bringing a hosta through the tissue culture process, saying that even in the best of circumstances, the final product of a viable hosta takes two years. Considering so many factors that interrupt and delay this process, a two-year window is ideal! Let's all hope this window works for the 2020 Minneapolis meeting.

-Chris Parisi, Education



SOGHS Awards Scholarships to Hort Students



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On May 1st, 2018, SOGHS was proud to award four scholarships to incoming and returning RCTC students committed to the Horticulture program. Elizabeth Prigge, Brice Bias, Lance Perkins and Karl Grebe (not pictured) displayed outstanding academic achievement and passion for the field of horticulture. SOGHS President Kathy Rustad (right) and member Jean Meyer (left) were on hand for the presentations.

Congratulations to this talented group and best wishes for a bright future! – *Kathy Rustad, President*

For Dividing Hostas: Indestructible Steel Pitchfork

Any big hosta digging jobs in your future? In need of a pitchfork that can handle those massive root systems of mature plants? If so, I have good news for you! Denny Noltee has agreed to go into business again creating his steel pitchforks, but you have to let him know you want one. He will not make them unless he has orders. They are all steel, heavy (but lighter than the SOGHS labeled one), and practically indestructible...major tree roots could be the exception. The cost will be somewhere around \$100, depending on cost of materials. If you want one, just contact Denny at (507)288-6730 to make the arrangements. Thanks! *Jan Gerke*



Welcome new members. The plant sale was productive in generating revenue for SOGHS. It was also productive in garnering some new members for the organization. We say "Hello" to:

**Lisa Banks,
Doris Brandt
John and Diane Framsted,
Robert Jesse,
Sue Schneider
Richard and Darren Wendt**

May our organization provide opportunities for learning more about hostas and adding many more to your gardens. With the addition of these new hosta lovers, the total membership is at 162.

Welcome

New Members

Auction, Lecture, Tour, Fun and Food = Successful Open House

Thank you to everyone who came to the SOGHS Spring Open House on May 24 and special thanks to all those who helped in so many ways! Gordy and I greatly appreciated everyone's willingness to lend a hand, no matter the task. (Ostrich ferns, anyone?)

Just a month after April's last snowstorm, the evening of the Open House was warm, breezy, and dry. Our hostas and companion plants were growing quickly, thanks to a few weeks of warm summery weather.

The many donations of plants and other garden-related silent auction items were very much appreciated. Most items had multiple bids, but H. 'Erotica' (donated by Pat Ferguson) caused quite a bidding war, with Bob Coulter being the lucky winner. Thanks, too, Sue Martino and Jan Suter, for running the silent auction. I could not have done it and play hostess, too! Linda Brech truly outdid herself with the planning and work she put into the food served that evening. Paula Zollman's talk on "How to Help Pollinators" was very informative and timely.

Over 50 people joined in the evening's fun. It was great to see fellow hostaholics relax and enjoy time catching up with beverage in hand, sampling some of Linda's great food, placing auction bids, or checking out the gardens. As they always do, Dave and Denice Cocker generously donated their time helping set up and take down the many tables and chairs they brought. Plus, Denice's springtime decorations for the door prize table were so cheery! SOGHS is filled with many wonderful, committed people, and our 2018 Spring Open House was a heart-warming example of that. Thanks for helping make this another successful event!

Enjoy Your Summer! **Jan Gerke and Gordy Haubenschild**



Sue Martino (left) and Jan Suter Announce Silent Auction Winners

With Winter Finally Over, It was Time to Load the Car With Plants!

The Merry Month of May lived up to its name with three exciting summer tours. Members of the Shades of Green Hosta Society joined together to travel to nurseries in Iowa, the Mennonite Greenhouses and finally the Amish Greenhouses in St. Charles. Trees, perennials, annuals and garden decorations were all hunted down and purchased to adorn our gardens. Laughter, expertise and the smells and sights of spring were shared with hosta partners in crime! A special thank you to Denny Bowe for going back to K&K in Hawkeye, IA, to pick up all our trees. They just didn't fit in our cars.

If you haven't organized your future summer excursions feel free to join us on the upcoming trips by contacting Deanna Nash at home - 507-290-0645 or mamasaninrst@aol.com

Car Pool Tour - July 7, 2018 - 1 Garden and 4 Nurseries

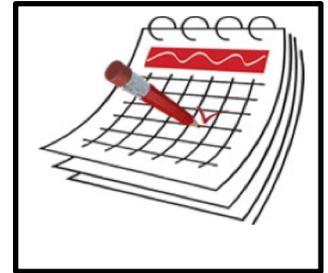
July 17, 2018, Member Garden Tour - 3 member Gardens

Overnight Car Pool Trip - August 3 and 4, 2018. 11 Stops to gardens and nurseries

Sue Martino, Deanna Nash

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **July 7 - Car Pool Tour**
- **July 12-14 - Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Peoria, IL**
- **July 17 - Member Garden Tours**
- **July 19 - Executive Board meeting**
- **July - Olmsted County Fair (don't forget to register for the hosta leaf show!)**
- **August 3-4 - Overnight Car Pool Tour**
- **August 23-24 - SOGHS exhibit at State Fair**
- **September 8 - Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction**
- **September 1 - Newsletter deadline for October/November/December newsletter**
- **September 27 - Executive Board meeting**
- **October 4 - General meeting open to the public / Board elections**
- **November 1 - Social Event TBD**
- **December 1 – Newsletter Deadline for January/February/March Newsletter**
- **December 6 - Executive Board meeting**



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