

THE HOSTA LEAF

A Newsletter of Shades of Green Hosta Society, Rochester, MN

Board Members 2021 SOGHS

President - Kathy Rustad

kdrustad@gmail.com

1st Vice President / Garden
Tours -

VaLinda Wondrasch

spice4valinda@gmail.com

2nd Vice president / Programs/

Education - Cindy Tomashek

prestonplants@gmail.com

3rd Vice President /
Membership/

Promotions - Joyce Rapp

jmwrapp20@gmail.com

Historian - Alma Adrover

Adrover543@gmail.com

Treasurer- Mona Keehn

chum721@gmail.com

Plant Sale - Paula Zollman

zollman.paula@gmail.com

Jenifer Magera

magerajenifer@gmail.com

Hospitality - Linda Brech

mnbrech@charter.net

Member fundraising - Jan Suter

JanetSuter1@gmail.com

Webmaster - Dave Cocker

djspaniel@hotmail.com

Newsletter - Mary Lanier

mdlancier@charter.net

The President's Letter



As 2020 came to an end, did you, with me, raise a glass and proclaim "Good Riddance"? Yes, finally there is a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines on the way. It has been a rough year but thank goodness for our gardens. I have had my best results with plants when I take my frustrations out on the weeds. We are cautiously optimistic that 2021 will bring us back our SOGHS activities but we are carefully watching the infection rates and vaccine rollout. Stay tuned as we fill-in the calendar you see in this newsletter on page 10.

UPDATE ON HOSTA BABIES

To finish the past year's theme, let me bring you up to date on my hosta seed babies. Those little critters who survived my cool, dry laundry room went outside in



the spring for a few hours a day before moving to their "Hosta Crib" in an old teakwood cooler I had beside the deck. Those that thrived then moved to the "Big Kid Bed," a raised herb garden I have in the back yard. Now that they are all tucked in for a long winters nap, I keep my fingers crossed for a good snowfall to blanket them until spring.

I was very excited to see the SOGHS Zoom Member meeting turnout in October! And in November, 11 brave souls joined in on the first-ever SOGHS Zoom Social. Check out the testimonials in the article

on page 4 of this newsletter. Stay tuned for information on our next SOGHS Zoom Social and our Zoom Member Meeting in February with speaker Josh Spece and his topic, "What's New in the Hosta World?" Remember, even you snowbirds can join in on the fun. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces. - **Kathy Rustad, SOGHS President**

AHS Wall of Honor Recipients: Joe, Chris Parisi

Congratulations to Joe and Chris Parisi! Joe and Chris were recognized at the October member meeting as AHS Wall of Honor recipients, recognizing their outstanding contributions to Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS).



Chris has served as 2nd Vice-President of Education and Programs for the last four years where she provided speakers and articles on a variety of interesting and relevant topics. She readily and willingly volunteered for many special duties such as the Winter Gala, Rochester Spring Garden Seminar (SOGHS Co-sponsor) and many more.

Joe has given of his time and expertise in photography to SOGHS over many years. From the Founder's Day Picnics, Annual Hosta Sales and countless member events, he cleverly captured hostas and hosta enthusiasts in the perfect light. Recently, he stepped up to fill a huge role as SOGHS Chairperson for the Convention Feasibility Committee followed by the role of Co-Chair for the 2023 MRHS Convention sponsored by SOGHS. His leadership, drive and organizational skills as well as his kind manner continue to keep plans moving along with controlled efficiency! A special thank you goes to Joe and Chris for your dedicated service to SOGHS! - **By Kathy Rustad**

A Thank-You Note From Joe and Chris Parisi

Dear SOGHS friends,
 We were surprised, humbled and honored to receive the 2020 AHS President's Wall of Honor Award. It has been our pleasure to be a part of this wonderful organization.
 We are humbled to join the company of past honorees, all of whom have made important contributions to the society.
 We appreciate this recognition and thank you for the honor.

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.

Deer Don't Like Hostas? Really???

Food For Thought

Deer don't like hostas. I know you are all screaming, "Yes they do." This year I've had extra time, and who hasn't, to observe the deer and what they eat.

We have lived at our place for about 35 years. We have a herd of at least 5 that have lived here all that time. The deer generally don't bother the hostas. Once in a while in the spring, when the hostas first come up I will see a bite out of a leaf, but not a lot of damage. Sometimes when the hostas flower I will lose a scape or two, generally on the fragrant hostas.

What do the deer eat? I have seen them walk through the hosta beds to eat jewel weed, stinging nettles, Solomon seal, Asiatic lilies, tropical hibiscus, succulents, agave, cactus (the thorns don't stop them) and apples off the ground but they also stand on their hind legs to eat them off the trees.

I think what I am saying is apparently we keep our gardens too clean (not a problem at my house). We have taken away the foods they like, so they eat our hostas. - **Dave Cocker, Webmaster**

MEMBERSHIP DUES SUSPENDED for 2021

Just a reminder that SOGHS has suspended our membership dues for 2021. If you have already paid your dues, they will be applied to future years.

Plant Sale News, 2021



Mark your calendars for the 2021 Hosta Plant Sale on **Saturday, June 5th, 2021.**

We have come up with a different plan for the 2021 Hosta Plant Sale. We want to have the sale and also make sure everyone is safe.

So, as it stands, these are our plans:

To reduce congestion, we plan to have a two-day plant drop-off on

Thursday, June 3rd and on Friday, June 4th.

- **Thursday, June 3rd will be for drop-off of larger loads of plants.**
- **Friday, June 4th will be for drop-off of smaller loads of plants.**
- **Saturday, June 5th will be the Hosta Plant Sale.**

We plan to limit the number of people in the building and have a one-way direction flow for the buyers. It will take a bit more coordination and time, but keeping the membership and shoppers safe is the goal. We still plan to have holding tables and members to help shoppers.

Please plan to pick up pots and soil for your hosta digs. We had some hostas planted in hard SE Minnesota dirt in the past and encourage all the members to use the soil we provide so the plants will be ready for a comfortable transplant into home gardens. Please also give yourself enough time to clean your pots before dropping them off so that the plant sale workers can be spread out on the setup dates.

For safety, we will have bottled water for volunteers, but we will not have a food-sharing area. Please plan to bring your own snacks and food.

Here's hoping there is a better handle on SARS-CoV-2 in 2021. - **Jen Magera and Paula Zollman**

SOGHS 1st Zoom Social a SUCCESS!



On Thursday evening, November 12, eleven adventurous SOGHS members joined in on the first of, hopefully, many SOGHS Zoom Socials.

These hosta friends were greeted by the hosts, Sue Martino and Joe Parisi. Sue and Joe skillfully guided the group through a series of garden-related questions. Each question was followed by a breakout session of smaller group discussions in a cozy and congenial setting. Attendees shared stimulating conversation and more than a few good ideas. The questions were:

Breakout Session 1: Where did you shop this summer for your garden(s)?

Breakout Session 2: What is something new you added to your garden(s) this year?

Breakout Session 3: What were some of the challenges you had this year in your garden(s)?

Breakout Session 4: Where did you find helpful information on gardening topics?

Here are just a few comments from those in attendance:



"Such fun seeing and chatting with hosta friends, laughing and just being social! It all went so smoothly breaking into smaller groups four different times..."

"it was so easy to chat with each other! Let's do it again!" -Karen Noltee

"... it worked beautifully to break into small groups and was very well run (thanks Joe and Sue - and Kathy for the time put into trialing this with the Board)." **-Cindy Tomashek**

"What a perfect solution in these times of social distancing to get together and catch up with SOGHS friends! Nice not to have to drive on potentially slippery roads, too. Many, many thanks to Sue Martino and Joe Parisi for handling the technical details...I didn't realize we could do the breakout sessions on ZOOM.

Such a fun evening! **I totally agree that we should do it again and hope we can get more of our hosta friends to join in!" -Jan Gerke**

... it was so fun to see & chat gardening now that most of our FALL work is put to bed!

It all ran very smoothly, thanks to the crew that figured & ran the social."
-Linda Brech

We hope you will consider joining us for our next SOGHS Zoom Social. Stay tuned for email and website announcements for the time and date.

And REMEMBER, even you Snow-birds can attend via Zoom!!!! We would love to see your sunny faces even if we get a bit envious. Stay safe and be well. **-Kathy Rustad**

**"YES, it was so fun to see & chat gardening now that most of our FALL work is put to bed!
It all ran very smoothly, thanks to the crew that figured & ran the social."
~Linda Brech**

**"It worked beautifully to break into small groups and was very well run (thanks Joe and Sue - and Kathy - for the time put into trialing this with the Board.)"
Look forward to doing this again!"
Cindy Tomashek**



ZOOM Cheat Sheet - Courtesy of Joe Parisi

If you've never or rarely use ZOOM, here are a few easy steps to get you started.

What is ZOOM?

Zoom is an on-line, internet-based, video conferencing software.

What do I need to join a Zoom meeting?

- a. Computer (Laptop or Desktop), tablet or smartphone
- b. Internet connection (WiFi or wired)
- c. An email invitation from the meeting organizer

If you're accessing Zoom from an iPad/Tablet or cell phone, you'll first need to download the ZOOM App onto your device from the App Store (Google Play Store or Apple App Store). If you're using a computer, you'll need to install the Zoom software from the Zoom Download Center website (<https://zoom.us/download>). You DO NOT need to create an account to join a ZOOM meeting.

Connect using the hyperlink in your email invite:

1. Click on the [hyperlink](#) in the email. Your web browser will open, and take you directly into the Zoom meeting. [Hyperlinks are underlined and begin with the letters 'https']
2. You may need to click on [open.zoom.us], especially the first time you use Zoom
3. If a password is required, it will be in the email from the meeting organizer.

Alternately, you can go to the Zoom website: Go to <https://zoom.us/join>, and enter the 9-digit meeting ID from your invitation email.

When you are on the Zoom website:

1. If you are asked if you want to open Zoom, click "Open zoom.us."
2. Zoom opens, showing you a preview of your camera image.
 - a. Then click either "Join with Video" or "Join without Video." If you use video, other people in the meeting will see you. If not, they will just see your name.
 - b. Next, Zoom asks about audio. Click "Join with Computer Audio" so you can hear and be heard in the meeting.

Dial into the meeting on a phone:

If you don't have internet access, you can use a phone to dial into the meeting. The phone number to call will be in your invitation email.

Tips once in a ZOOM meeting :

- Once you've joined the meeting, you can see and hear other participants. Each participant is represented by a square that displays their face (if they've chosen to join with video) or just their name.

- If you see: "Waiting for Host to Start this Meeting," just wait for them to join.

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(Continued on Page 6)

Zoom Instructions Continued

- Adjust your camera to center your face on the screen so people can see you properly.
- Your microphone and camera ON/OFF icons are in the bottom left corner of the screen.
- If you're in a large meeting, make sure your microphone is muted. Your device's microphone

is pretty sensitive, and if you're unmuted, it can pick up a lot of background noise. The mute button, which looks like a microphone, is in the bottom left corner of the Zoom screen. If the microphone has a red line through it, you're muted, and no one in the meeting will hear you. Click the button again to unmute yourself if you want to talk in the meeting.

- Only one person in the meeting can talk at a time. Zoom indicates who is speaking by highlighting their image with a colored square or line.
- In the upper right of the video display area, there will be a selection that you can toggle between: Speaker View or Gallery View .
- Speaker View will show whomever is currently speaking along with a small number of other participants at the top of the screen.
- Gallery View will fill the screen with a set of video boxes of up to 49 participants, highlighting the participant that is currently speaking. This can kind of look like a "Brady Bunch" screen.

CHAT Feature:

There is also a chat feature in Zoom, where you can type messages to other participants. Participants can send messages to everyone in the meeting, or just certain participants. However, after

the meeting, the host can view the transcript of all chats, so it's not entirely private.

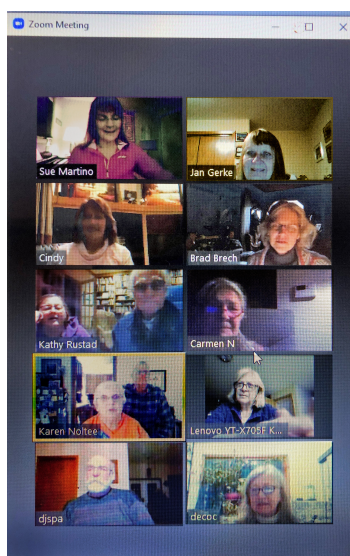
If there is a message for you in the chat, a notification appears on the Chat button, which looks like a

speech bubble. Click that button to open the chat window. The CHAT button at the bottom of the

screen allows you type a message to participants

LEAVING A MEETING

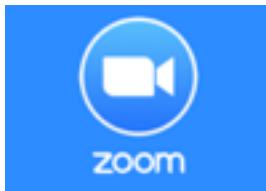
To leave the meeting at any time, simply Click "Leave Meeting" on the bottom right corner to leave the meeting.



ZOOM: It's the safe way to get together socially. Why not join us at our next meeting or member social? Need a coach? See Page 7 for information on how to "test drive" ZOOM.



Would you like to take Zoom for a Test Drive?



If you have never used Zoom before and you feel up for an adventure in learning call Sue Martino at 507-753-2430. You will need a laptop or Smartphone and everything else is free.

I will take you through the steps to set up your device. Take a glance at the Zoom Instruction page written by Joe Parisi that is included in the newsletter on pages 5 and 6 and then give me a call.

We can set up a time to work together over the phone and get you started with a Zoom meeting right then and there! It really is quite fun and what a great way to stay socially connected in these trying times not just with SOGHS, but with family and friends.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Kathy Rustad upon the death of her mother on Thursday, Dec. 3.

Our deepest sympathy also goes out to Beth Plaetzer upon the death of her father on Thursday, Nov. 26.

Our deepest sympathy extends also to Deanna Nash upon the death of her husband Tom on Jan. 3, 2021.



Looking forward to 2021 and beyond

Amongst everything 2020 has thrown at us, we are grateful for your support of the 2023 Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) Convention in Rochester.

With this article, we hope to keep you informed of our progress, as well as numerous opportunities for your participation leading up to the Convention!

Moving the Convention forward to 2023 has provided the Convention Planning Committee additional time to develop what we hope will be an extraordinary hosta meeting. Organizational planning for the Convention already is under way. The Committee welcomes any thoughts or suggestions you might have for Convention details, events, and educational session speakers and topics.

Currently, this is how things stand for the Convention:

- We have a date: **July 13-15, 2023**
- We have a venue: the newly remodeled **Best Western Rochester Hotel** (1517 16th Street SW)
- We have a Convention Theme: **Hosta Dreamin'**
- We have a Convention gift plant: **Hosta 'Pursuit of Happiness'**
- We have Convention tour gardens selected
- We **need** a Convention logo—the Logo contest still is open—please visit: www.soghs.org (Member's Only) for details
- We **need** your suggestions for Convention activities and educational sessions--please email us at: SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com with your suggestions
- We **need** Convention Committee chairpersons and volunteers—please email us at: SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com with your area(s) of interest.

Committees needing a chairperson and volunteers are:

Decorations, Vendors, Educational Programs, Setup/Takedown, Publicity, and Logistics

Committees needing volunteers are:

Garden Tours/Busses, Registration, Hospitality, Leaf Show/Judge's Clinic, and Volunteer/Supply Officer

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year unlike any other. While it has been a year full of challenges, it also has been one of hope and resilience. We hope you were able to enjoy the holidays, although they likely took a different form this year. Our hope is that you are able to relax, reflect and make new memories, as a new year of possibilities awaits us.

Please stay safe and well.- **Joe Parisi, Co-chair, 2023 MRHS Convention Committee**

Not **EVERYTHING** Is Canceled

HOTY and Scratch-and-Dent Sales Planned

Even though we aren't yet meeting in person, there is one thing that has not been canceled for 2021: members-only HOTY and Scratch and Dent Sales. We know you are all patiently (or perhaps impatiently) waiting for the opportunity to start gardening again, and we are making plans to that end. We've been in contact with Gary Lindheimer at Naylor Creek Hostas in Chimacum, WA, and Bob Solberg of Green Hill Hostas in Franklinton, NC. In the past, they have provided SOGHS with wonderful hostas for our group, and lucky for us, they are willing to do this again! So, 'stay tuned' for the HOTY sale in May (Naylor Creek) and the Scratch-and-Dent Sale (Green Hill Hostas) in very early September. We'll keep you all updated! Watch for more information in our April newsletter.

- Jan Suter and Sue Martino

New Membership Chair Is Announced

Joan Till-Born Welcomes Joyce Rapp to Position

Thank you to all of the SOGHS family. Working with Membership for two years has been a rewarding experience. The SOGHS Board, committee members and the great hosta lovers made the experience fun and rewarding. The knowledge learned from this group has been amazing. I have belonged to a variety of organizations and Shades of Green Hosta Society has been the one that felt like a family. Joyce Rapp has graciously agreed to take over the Membership role. Welcome Joyce. Contact information below. - Joan Till-Born

jmwrapp20@gmail.com Joyce Rapp

American Hosta Society Membership

The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities, including, during "normal years," a convention, and three issues of "The Hosta Journal." 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. Individual AHS dues are \$30/year or \$90/3 years. Make your check payable to AHS and send to Sandie Markland, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 7539, Kill Devis Hills, NC 27948.

Update on Future Events

The SOGHS Board met December 3 via Zoom. Foremost in our minds is how to stay safely connected with each other during this pandemic. We have used Zoom to facilitate Board meetings, the October member meeting and even the November social. Each event has run smoothly, accomplished what needs to get done and provided those who participated with great interaction. Kathy Rustad has been kind enough to allow use of her personal Zoom account in order for these events to take place, but now it's clear SOGHS could benefit from its own Zoom account and we'll no longer have to impose on Kathy all the time. Along with Kathy, Joe Parisi and Sue Martino have been indispensable launching and troubleshooting Zoom events for SOGHS. It seems prudent to train a few more members on how to launch an event through Zoom so no individual is shouldering this task. To that end, Joe and Sue have offered to continue providing Zoom support and will help train others. Many thanks to them (and to Kathy!) for sharing this tool and their talents with our organization. Stay tuned for developments.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

While there is hope on the horizon for future in-person events, consensus is that it's still a long way off, so the Board is planning Zoom events in the near term:

January 14, 2021 - Member Social via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

February 4, 2021 - Brief member meeting (annual meeting moved to April); Featured speaker Josh Spece "What's New in the Hosta World?"

March 11, 2021 - Member Social via Zoom

April 8, 2021 - Member meeting and educational program (NOTE: Featured speaker, Joseph Tychonievich, will speak BEFORE the business meeting, which will be our annual meeting, a temporary change from past years.)



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The rest of the calendar is extremely tentative but we plan to include as many of our normal events as possible and allowable considering the ongoing pandemic. To that end, the bus tour and carpool tours are on hold. The destinations will be largely what was planned for last year but we won't know for some time if the destination hosts will be ready and willing to accept groups or if it will be safe to travel in groups. If at all safely possible, we will have the plant sale. Paula and Jen have been brainstorming ways to modify the plant sale (one-way foot traffic, limited number of shoppers at one time, water provided but no food for workers, etc.) These are all tentative plans as well and the health safety guidelines for in-person events issued by the State will dictate what does and doesn't happen. It may be that some in-person events will be postponed until late summer or fall. Above all, we want everyone to stay safe and healthy and connected!! We hope to know more by the end of March and will firm up events as things change.

Member Fundraising chair, Jan Suter, and Sue Martino, are already planning the HOTY offerings as well as getting a commitment for the fall Scratch and Dent offerings, so stay tuned for information coming to you in future newsletters and on our website.

It's now your civic duty to mask up outside your home, wash your hands frequently, stay home if you can, and surf the web for the most enticing hosta (wink)! This Board update was brought to you by **Cindy Tomashek on behalf of Kathy Rustad**

Hosta Flower Power

While we love our hostas, we often overlook the beauty of their flowers. Yes, hosta flowers are sometimes non-descript but many are absolutely beautiful and worthy of our admiration. Now many of our hybridizers are working to further improve them. Mr. Hiroshé Abe, a dedicated Japanese plant enthusiast who posts absolutely wonderful pictures of all sorts of exciting plants on Facebook, has a great collection of hostas which produce beautiful flowers. He has kindly given permission for his pictures to be shared in this collage of hosta blooms. Enjoy.



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