Cindy Tomashek, left, and Gordy Hauabenschild, Jan Gerke, Kim Greene, Karen and Denny Noltee share their knowledge

Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota

The Hosta L-eaf

July, August, September 2017 Volume 11, Issue 3

Lots of Action in Hosta Land

……Tours, Education and Plant Sale

The President's Pen

Mid-summer is upon us and that is hard to believe, except for what I know has already been accomplished: a super successful plant sale. Thanks to everyone who donated and worked set-up, sale and tear down! It truly warms my heart to witness the cheerful, hardworking group that shows up every year.

The annual bus tour has also taken place, and I sure hope it was fun and educational. I'm betting it was as Deanna and crew do an amazing job scouting destinations. While sad not to be with you, I was happily spending time with my three sisters and a few other family members. The more time goes by, the more important family becomes, and I count everyone in this organization as family, so either option was a win for me.

The summer member garden tours have kicked off with great gardens, including the spring open house at the Keehn residence. What a nice evening we enjoyed: splendid gardens, superb hospitality, overflowing silent auction, and educational presentation...and a great turnout! The June member tours were also spectacular. I only made it to one location but have it on good authority they were all stunning. Things should be calmer in July, so I'm truly looking forward to the next member tours. **More Inside on Page 5**

Recipe for Deer Repellant so your hostas don't look like this!

As we know all too well, deer are opportunists and will use any chance they have to make our gardens their cafeterias. Jane Yunginger uses a homemade deer repellant with success all year long.

Recipe:

Fill a gallon container ¾ with water.
Mix
1 cup milk
1 egg, beaten
1 tablespoon oil
1 tablespoon original blue Dawn dishwashing liquid

Add to water, and shake to mix well. Put in spray bottle. Mix may be refrigerated, but it's not necessary, though Jane notes that refrigeration minimizes the noxious odor.

Critter Ridder

Panel discussion of "Keeping the Critters Out" began with Gordon Haubenschild & Jan Gerke presenting various methods of deer control. While they started with a single wire electric fence, gradually adding two then three wires, they ultimately graduated to an 8- to 10-foot mesh-type electrified fence to enclose their large property. Baiting the fence with peanut butter or molasses entices the deer to touch the fence, thus training them to the pitfalls of the current. Margie Loprinzi suggested that plastic garbage bags blowing in the wind attached to trees or posts scare off deer also. Use of sprays and other repellents work, though expensive, and applications must be repeated. Gordy used a rat zapper for smaller rodent-type animals, including squirrels and chipmunks.

Karen & Dennis Noltee's ongoing contest with voles provided audience with entertaining stories of persistent creatures invading their mini hosta bed, which they had covered. Seems that the covering itself provided the perfect breeding ground for voles. **More on Page 2**

Membership Information

A word from your membership leader, the one in charge of taking your money! As you know we are a group of folks in love with Hostas. We enjoy fellowship at our general meetings and at special get togethers. We recently had a very successful plant sale. We also were able to visit some of the beautiful gardens of SOGHS members. Bus tours and gardening shopping trips are also some early season highlights. These of course are some of benefits to being members of this wonderful organization.

For a minimal annual fee of $10/year single membership and $15/year dual, these are your rewards. At present, we have 173 members. That's a lot of Hosta lovers!! At the annual plant sale we gained 4 new members and also welcomed back 2 previous members. At the meeting in October I will have my renewal sign up. I generally like to take renewals at that time or even at the spring meeting. You are always free to send me a check with your renewal or even email me to see if you are current. At present if you can access the SOGHS website or receive reminders from Dave Cocker, you are current. To keep the records up to date, I will send out a reminder near the end of the year or just after the New Year begins letting members know if they are due to renew. If I don't get renewal monies, unfortunately your name will be removed from the roster. Given the benefits of SOGHS I would hate to see that happen.

This, then, is your reminder that membership fees are important and have their benefits. Keep current and keep enjoying Hostas for the remainder of the summer and really, all year round.

Genella Mussell, Membership, mayflower987kr@hotmail.com
43717 172 Ave. Way
Zumbrota, MN 55992

How to Discourage Pests in the Garden

Continued from Page 1

Control & eradication included poison baits (rodenticides) and traps. D-con, Rodex and Warfarin-based pesticides were recommended for voles. Be aware of the fact that these are poisons, dangerous to wildlife, pets and children. Thiram-based vole repellent needs to be reapplied. Havahart traps present a humane method of vole removal though endless persistence is required.

Humane methods were Kim Greene's favored use of control: her five-feline patrol and wrapping her delicate trees and shrubbery with chicken wire and fabrics. Since she favors coexisting with the wildlife that has always inhabited her gardens, she knows she faces an ongoing battle but it appears she has a great defense with indoor/outdoor cats.

Membership participation ensured a lively discussion of colorful descriptions of successful critter conquests! Final conclusion: An annual panel discussion is recommended.

Thanks to panel of Gordy, Jan, Kim, Karen & Denny.– ***Chris Parisi***

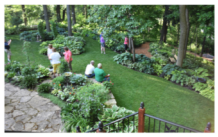
Announcing July Member Tour!

Our July member tour will be held on Sunday, July 23rd from 1 to 4 p.m. and Monday, July 24th from 5 to 8 p.m. We have three gardens lined up for your touring pleasure. Chris and Lynn Peterson are excited to have you visit their gardens, just outside of Kasson at 65748 250th Ave., Kasson. Barb and Joe Vroman, who live at 411 Lawry Ct NW in Rochester, and Jane Yunginger, 1760 Walden Ln SW in Rochester, are joining them on the tour. Watch our SOGHS website for the flyer giving garden descriptions and directions. It should be available by mid-July. Please don't hesitate to call Jan Gerke at 507-259-7096 or email: Janice.gerke@gmail.com if you need more information.

We look forward to seeing you in the gardens! – *Jan Gerke*

'Tours, Tours, Tours! • Carpool to Nurseries • Member Tours • Bus Tour

Many in SOGHS took advantage of the carpool trips to the Mennonite nurseries in northern Iowa the first week in May. As we passed each other in the aisles of plants it was, "Look what I found! If you need one there are a few left!!" By mid-afternoon it was, "Don't know if we have room for more in the car!!!"



June Tours Of Members' Gardens

June 13 and 14 found us touring three awesome member gardens. **Deb Thomford and David Nagorney's** large yard had some fascinating features including a beautiful pondless waterfall and a dry run. I also found the way Dave covered the meters on the side of the house to be very pretty.
Mary and Bill Lanier's yard is many peaceful levels lined with boulders and stones to "terrace" the side and back yards. How that was accomplished is a wonder! Unfortunately for Mary's hostas, it is also a wildlife paradise that includes a resident doe with twin fawns. Her garden shed would make a lovely summer cottage!
Mary and Rich Hurt have a hosta paradise ! The view from the deck is spectacular. Their many clematis were in bloom as we walked down the side of the house to the back yard.

June Bus Tour Goes to Gardens and Garden Centers in Mankato Area

We had 27 people join us for our annual bus tour on June 17 to four gardens and two garden centers. Our first stop was the Edenvale Nursery, and we found many lovely plants, shrubs and trees. They also were very generous giving us 3 hostas, an astilbe and a stone owl for our door prizes. Our other nursery was Drummer's (15% discount) where we finished filling the underside storage of the bus.
The four gardens we visited were Kim Sogaard's and the Borst's in Mankato, Wiechert's in Janesville, and the Fischer's in Waseca. There were many lovely and different features in each garden, and I'm sure many of us got some new ideas for our own gardens. Door prizes were: H. 'World Cup' won by Joyce Malinowski and Nancy McMahon; H. 'Brother Stefan' won by Sharon Blough, Barb Threinen, and Linda Brech; H.'Guacamole' by Jan Gerke; H. 'Lemon Love Note' by Dorothy Wichmann and Valinda Wondrasch; an Astilbe by Chris Peterson; the Owl by Dorothy Dennison; H.'Praying Hands' by Rita Buegler; H. 'Eola Sapphire' by Kay Wacholz; and H. 'Urchin' by Karen Noltee and Gerry Meyer. Each host gardener received a hosta also.

We hope next year more will be able to join us for the bus tour, and we hope that you will support our members by visiting their gardens when they are on tour.

Until the next tour, wishing you timely, gentle rains, time to enjoy your garden and fewer weeds. - ***Deanna Nash, Tours***

The 2017 Hosta Sale was a success!

What makes a SOGHS Plant Sale a success? The obvious answer to me is the volunteers!! We have an amazing group of volunteers. Our membership always comes through, and it's not just setting up the day before or showing up at 7 on a Saturday morning.
We challenged members to donate five plants. I don't think anyone donating brought just five plants. The donations just kept coming and coming. It was astonishingly generous.

Because of the abundant donations, we didn't have to limit the number of plants that volunteers were able to purchase Friday evening at the pre sale. It was so much fun. We sold $2,550 before the sale even started!

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the sale run smoothly and for all the wonderful donations not only in plant material, but also of food, beverages, and paper products. Those contributions helped to keep the cost down and profits higher.

I have truly enjoyed working with Dave Cocker as my co-chair during the last three plant sales. He and his wife Denice made my job easy. We will be passing the Plant Chair board position on to Paula Zollman and Jenifer Magera next year. After seeing their enthusiasm during the sale, we know we are leaving the job in very capable hands.

Thank you everyone~
Mona Keehn , Plant Sale Chair

Just How Successful Was Our Sale???

The total deposit to the bank was $12,017.00
Our total expenses were $1224.97, for a profit of $10,792.03
Pretty darn successful!
As a side note, we also collected $350 in Hosta Bucks!!!
Not bad for a three-hour sale!

Mona Keehn,
Treasurer

Membership News of Note

We wish to extend our sympathy to the following members: Cindy Tomashek's father passed away the week of the plant sale.
Larry Gates died June 8, 2017. Larry & Charlene are members.
Curt Dotzenrod, husband of Joan and father of Alison (Dotzenrod) Coyle, died June 15, 2017. Joan organized and chaired the Plant Sale in years past.
Cards were sent to all.
– Linda Brech

HOTY News Flash: You Get a 2nd Chance

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who supported our 2017 Hosta of the Year member offering with your orders!

As you probably know, we used a different vendor for three of our hostas this year. In doing business with him, we had to place orders in lots of 10.

Consequently, I have some extra plants left (just one of H. 'Waterslide', but several of both H. 'Green Flash' and H. 'Sting'). If anyone missed out on the offering this spring, here's your chance to purchase these HOTYs. Just call Jan Gerke at 507-259-7096 to inquire about availability and set up a pickup date. Cost is as originally stated in the flyer that appeared in the April-May-June newsletter ($16 for 'Waterslide', $20 for 'Green Flash', and $14 for 'Sting').

And in case you are wondering, we will be having a "Scratch and Dent" offering again in mid to late August. Watch our website for information as it becomes available. If you do not have Internet access and want to be kept in the loop, call Jan so she can be sure to personally keep you posted! *Jan Gerke,* 507-259-7096

• H. 'Waterslide'

H. 'Green Flash'

HOTYS, top to bottom: H. 'Waterslide,' H. 'Green Flash' and H. 'Sting'

The rainfall brings growth...and more growth

President's letter continued from Page 1

The robust growth of the garden this year is likely thanks to the excessive rainfall last summer, but it also means that I have to root out Ostrich Ferns, Lily of the Valley, and False Solomon's Seal. Normally I would offer these to anyone who wants them, but most new gardeners are unsuspecting of the aggressive tendencies of these plants, and I am loathe to encumber anyone with them unless they truly know what they are getting. Heavy rains followed by mild winter temps have favored other ground cover plants such as Ginger, Lamium and Ajuga and self-sowers like Hardy Geranium, Brunnera and Lungwort. All have spread aggressively since last summer, so there have been many rounds of weeding and spraying just to rein them in, and I am considering eliminating them altogether. The bright side to that is it would create better airflow in my over-crowded garden. Have you experienced excessive re-seeding or perennial creep since last summer? I'd like to hear from you, so call or send an email to prestonplants@aol.com.

So far we've seen heavy rain, a bit of a dry spell with high temps and wind, and now cool temps with rain...and, yes, a few rounds of hail in the mix. There's only so much we can control, so it's important to roll with the punches Mother Nature throws and keep on gardening. That's my plan and I'm sticking to it.

Let's Grow!

- Cindy Tomashek

SOGHS Officers 2017

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Programs/2nd Vice President – Chris Parisi
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Membership/3rd Vice President – Genella Mussell
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Secretary/Historian – Linda Brech mnbrech@charter.net

Treasurer – Mona Keehn
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Plant Sale – Mona Keehn
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Hospitality – Kathy Rustad
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Fundraising – Jan Gerke
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Webmaster – Dave Cocker
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Newsletter Editor – Mary Lanier
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'Tour with the Masters' and enjoy seven unique gardens (five private gardens, one semi-private garden, and one public garden) in the northwest area of Rochester, made up of perennials, annuals, vegetable gardens, grasses, native plants, and rainwater features! The University of Minnesota Extension 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!
(More information, Page 5)

Master Gardener "Tour with the Masters" Garden Tour!

Only $5 per person!

How to purchase tickets for the tour:

Reserve Your Seat on the Trolley

Rochester Trolley and Tour Company

www.rochestermntours.com

Wristbands and Maps Available at Sargent's on 2nd

Starting the second Sunday in July

Starting at 4:00 PM on the Day of the Tour - July 26, 2017

Heintz Center RCTC (1926 College View Road SE, SMART Garden Parking Lot)

At The Tour Gardens

Tickets will also be available at each garden on the tour.

Be Sure to Check the SOGHS website, SOGHS.org, for information on upcoming events such as the July member garden tours, the Olmsted County Fair and the August trip to the Green Bay, WI, area

Food, Fun, Festivity = A Perfect Recipe Every Time

If you've ever been to a SOGHS meeting or event, you know that there is always food involved. Julia Child once said, "A party without cake is just a meeting," but we could turn it around to say, "A meeting without food isn't a party."

Life's short, right? Let's make it fun. Thanks to the organizational efforts of Kathy Rustad who spearheads hospitality, our meetings and volunteer events always include food, fun and festivity. Kathy gives the credit to a willing team of volunteers. "My sincere thank you to the many volunteers who donated food and supplies to the SOGHS Annual Plant Sale. What a delicious spread!
It is a true pleasure to participate in this caring and giving organization.
"I'm grateful to Deanna Nash for sharing with us her tasty salad and recipe. I hope to share more recipes in the coming newsletters, so if you have one you would like to see or share, I'd love to hear about it."
And, in the words of Julia Child…and Kathy Rustad, "Bon appetit!"

Deanna Nash's Broccoli Grape Salad

4 c broccoli
2 c red grapes
2 c green grapes
2 bunches chopped green onion
2 c chopped celery

Before serving, add slivered almonds and crumbled bacon

Then add dressing:
3/4 c sugar
1 T balsamic vinegar
2 c Hellman's original mayonnaise
- Kathy Rustad, Hospitality

American Hosta Society Membership Information:

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.

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. • Access to Members Only section of the AHS website**

Membership Year is January 1 through December 31
Click here to Join the AHS or Renew your Membership Online

Be Watching for Anniversary Shutterfly Book

The 2016 SOGHS Shutterfly book was completed in May. In addition to documenting our 2016 year in pictures, we used this book as an anniversary edition, adding some photos from our first year, plus several others from earlier years. It will be available at our various member events, so be sure to grab it and flip through the pages to relive our 10th anniversary year as a hosta society.

If any of you are interested in purchasing your own copy, please let Jan Gerke know by calling her at 507-259-7096 or sending her an email at Janice.gerke@gmail.com. We will watch for the best possible deal from Shutterfly and you will be charged what it costs us to order it.

As you take part in member events throughout 2017, please keep your cameras handy. We need your photos to help create books that completely tell our hosta story!

Happy picture taking!

- ***Linda Brech and Jan Gerke***

Hosta Of The Year - How It Came About...in case you don't know

The American Hosta Society (AHS) has an annual popularity poll, in which AHS members vote for their favorite hosta. The annual winning hosta in the AHS popularity poll has evolved into what is now known as the Hosta of the Year (HOTY).

Annual selection of the HOTY includes an official nomination and balloting process. Each AHGA member nominates three hosta cultivars. The nominations are then generated into a "long list", which is sent to AHGA members where they vote for their top three choices. The list is then reduced to 3 - 5 contenders, and members select a single cultivar on a final ballot. The cultivar with the most votes becomes the HOTY.

Criteria for HOTY selection:

- The hosta is adaptable to all climates in the country.
- The hosta should be affordable, a retail price of about $15 to $20.
- The hosta needs to be distinct and recognizable.
- Any hosta except a previous winner, is eligible to be selected.

The 2018 Hosta of the Year is H. 'World Cup'

2018 *H.* 'World Cup' (Beilstein/Zillis) grows 30" high by 48" wide with deeply cupped gold corrugated leaves that reach up to the sky. It also has nice white backsides that stand out due to its upright habit. Pale purple flowers in summer.

Calendar

- ***July 20 - Rochester Flower and Garden Club tours***
- ***July 23-24 Possible Member Garden Tour***
- ***July 26 - Master Gardener Garden Tour***
- ***July 18 - Executive Board meeting***
- ***July 24-30 - Olmsted County Fair (Don't forget to register for the hosta leaf show!)***
- ***July 28-29 - Overnight carpool tour Green Bay area***

- ***August 24-25 - SOGHS exhibit at State Fair***

- ***September 9 - Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction***
- ***September 15 - Newsletter deadline for October/November/December newsletter***
- ***September 26 - Executive Board meeting***

- ***October 5 - General meeting open to the public / Board elections***

- ***November - Social Event TBD***

- ***December 5 - Executive Board meeting***

SOGHS
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