

# THE HOSTA LEAF

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

## SOGHS Board 2020

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## Kathy's Corner

Driving down the road, I see leaves on the trees starting to turn to their autumn colors. This is a bittersweet time as it comes with a farewell to the gardens, but the cooler temperatures



and harvest bounty make autumn my favorite time of year. I remind myself that now is a good time to start taking notes, making plans for next year's gardening season. Marking hostas to divide (in hopes of the SOGHS Hosta Plant Sale in 2021), expanding a garden behind the garage, moving a few plants to a more desirable location and a commitment to better fertilize and control pests are at the top of my list.

Each of us has our own "to-do" list of autumn chores in the garden. Some like to cut down hosta leaves to a few inches after the first frost while some leave that task until spring cleanup before the first pips start to emerge. This year I plan to cut my hostas back in hopes of deterring pests from making their homes in decomposed hosta debris.

This was an unprecedented year for everyone as we looked for ways to connect safely with our family and friends. It

is my sincere hope that each of you found a way to come together.

Thanks to technology, the SOGHS Board has continued to meet through Zoom meetings. We are happy to report we had a successful Zoom October member meeting with 34 people attending.

We certainly look forward to seeing one another in person and give a sincere thank-you to Sue Martino and her team for creatively and safely distributing both the HOTY and Scratch & Dent Hosta sales to our members.

It was a very hard decision to cancel events we so dearly love including the Founder's Day picnic. We hope the one-year extension of your SOGHS membership took a bit of the sting out of this year's disappointing lack of activities. I have my fingers crossed and have said more than one prayer that we will be back together soon. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces.

**Kathy Rustad, SOGHS President**



# OCTOBER MEETING via Zoom

## Meeting Topic:

## Hostas and Other Shady Characters

*Because of Covid-19 we were not able to meet in person, but information e-mailed to your inbox gave instructions and a link for the Oct. 1 virtual presentation by Glenn Herold. We were pleased with attendance and hope for even more attendees at our winter gathering.*

According to Glenn Herold, hostas may be the major component of your shade garden but they should not be the only component. When constructing a shade garden, look to Mother Nature for ideas. Underneath the tall trees are smaller, understory trees and shrubs. Underneath that, at ground level you will find a variety of perennials and ground covers. Hosta gardens can be constructed in the same manner and still emphasize your favorite plant. This talk will give you suggestions of plants that can be used to fill in the different tiers of your shade garden, and make your garden a haven of interest in all seasons.

## Glenn Herold, Speaker

### Glenn Herold's Bio:

Hometown: Watertown, Wisconsin  
Currently living in Cedarburg, WI

Education:  
BS from University of Wisconsin - Madison (Biology, Education) - 1974  
MS from University of Wisconsin - Madison (Horticulture) - 1979

Professor of Horticulture and Head Cross Country Coach, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL - 1979 to 2011

Gardening Interests: Hostas, Dwarf Conifers, Woodland Wildflowers, Small Maples

Hobbies: Woodworking, Biking, Exercise, Gardening

Founder of the Illinois Central College Arboretum.

Professional Organizations:  
American Hosta Society  
American Conifer Society  
The Maple Society  
Wisconsin Woody Plant Society  
Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

President of Central Illinois Hosta Society, 1995-96  
Secretary of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2009- 2011  
President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2011 to 2015  
AHS Region 5 Liaison, 2017-present  
Vice President of the American Conifer Society - Central Region, 2001-03

Competed in track and cross country, UW-Madison, 1969-73  
Three time Big 10 Champion, Three time All-American  
Set American Indoor 5000 meter record in 1975

Second place World University Games 5000 meters, 1973  
Sixth place Olympic trials 5000 meters, 1972  
Inducted into the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association hall of fame, 1993

## GO AWAY DEER!

Linda Brech brings out the “big guns’ to combat deer damage “I probably spray one to three times a month to keep the deer at bay. I love my four-gallon sprayer. It makes this job very easy to get done in a triple batch!! Now with the lighted garden I can even get it done way past sunset.” Notice that Linda carries the heavy load on her back.



## Recipe for Deer Deterrent:

This recipe comes from Jane Yunginger. I sprayed this concoction at least once a week this summer, usually every 5 days, and for the first time EVER I had a complete fence row of blooming lilies and a full complement of hostas and companion plants. The garden never looked better. To be sure I was ready at all times, I made three or four gallons at a time and stored it in the garage. No need to refrigerate. The deer are boldly browsing this time of year, so it's important to keep them at bay. Good luck. - Mary Lanier

- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 Tablespoon blue Dawn dishwashing liquid

Mix these four ingredients well in an electric blender. Add water to a gallon sprayer jug, being careful to leave enough room to add the blended ingredients. Spray plant leaves liberally with mixture.

## Hostality Report:

Because our meetings and social events were canceled this spring and summer, Hostality is holding onto the door prize that normally would have gone to event attendees. I'm holding onto two hostas I had ordered through Josh Spece's "In the Country Garden & Gifts" in Iowa. I did not receive the plants from Josh until the middle of June. The two Door Prizes that were selected at our last meeting in February went to Vickie Hennessey & Joyce Rapp. The remaining two Hostas were randomly drawn from the entire membership & gifted to Pat Basile (H. 'Wonderland') & June Meitzner (H.'Wrinkle in Time'). Let's hope the future will get us back to our regular meetings so the wonderful world of Hosta knowledge can be shared with our Hosta community and you can have an opportunity to take home some of our wonderful door prizes. - **Linda Brech, Hostality**



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## MRHS Dues and Information

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MRHS DUES are \$20/2 years. Send your check to: Kathy Rustad, 4011 10th Avenue NW Rochester, MN. 55901. There is a printable membership form on the website. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

There are two meetings held annually. The Board of MRHS recently decided to reinstate the traditional Winter Conference, now named the HOSTA SYMPOSIUM, held in the Milwaukee, WI, area the first weekend in February. In the summer, an annual convention, hosted by a local society, is held in different locations throughout the region. This three-day extravaganza features garden tours, a show of Hosta leaves, vendors selling the newest in Hosta plants, an auction of plants, a banquet, and an informational speaker. Foremost, however, is the fellowship of seeing old Hosta friends as well as making new ones.

The MRHS is considered Region 5 of the American Hosta Society and encompasses the nine Midwestern states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Within the Midwest Region are 18 local societies.

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## American Hosta Society Membership/Dues

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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.

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## SOGHS Annual Membership Dues

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2021 Dues =OUR GIFT TO YOU. At the spring Board Meeting, at the beginning of Covid, Webmaster Dave Cocker suggested, and the Board enthusiastically approved, extending everyone's Membership by 1 year. Membership typically is \$10 a year for individuals and \$15 for couples. Since March, member benefits have been extremely limited. We look forward to the day when we can once again meet socially.

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# CONVENTION CORNER

a new column by Joe Parisi devoted to updates on the 2023 MRHS Convention

Summer is over, fall is upon us, and your SOGHS 2023 MRHS Convention Committee is delighted to share some exciting updates on the MRHS Convention in Rochester. As you know, the MRHS Convention, sponsored by SOGHS, has been moved to 2023. Your Convention Committee already has been hard at work planning for a memorable event. We hope to keep you informed of our progress and numerous opportunities for your participation leading up to the Convention!



The Committee appreciates the contributions of many members who have made this progress possible.

Thank-you to those of you who gave time and creative thought for our Convention Theme contest. The Convention theme **Hosta Dreamin'** was selected from an anonymously presented list of 150 creative entries. Congratulations to Chris Parisi, who provided the winning entry!

Thanks to Cindy Tomashek, Rob Mortko, Gary Naylor and Marco Fransen, an exclusive gift hosta has been selected and currently is being grown for Convention attendees. This spectacular plant, *H.*

'Pursuit of Happiness' (official registration pending) is a sport of *H.* 'Liberty.'

Photo of the convention hosta, above, is courtesy of Dan Wols, originator and donor of the Convention gift hosta. This hosta will not be for sale until after the convention.

The 2023 MRHS Convention Garden Tour Committee extends a sincere Thank You to all SOGHS members who generously volunteered their gardens for consideration to tour. Each garden displayed a lovely variety of hostas and tastefully adorned garden art, making the final selections difficult. The gardens chosen for the Convention are: Deanna Nash, Paula Zollman, Lloyd & Joan Meyer and Dave & Cheryl Moertel.

GOOD NEWS - The Convention LOGO contest is still open!

The LOGO Contest deadline for entries has been moved to March 15, 2021. The Committee decided that with the Convention being moved from 2022 to 2023, more time was available for members to unleash their creative ideas and design a memorable and unique logo (see attached entry form/website for details).

As Convention information become available, it will be posted at: [www.soghs.org](http://www.soghs.org) (Member's Only).

Please email any questions or comments to [SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com](mailto:SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com).

Please mark your calendars for July 13-15, 2023, for what promises to be an extraordinary hosta event!

# Entry Deadline March 15, 2021



## SOGHS 2023 MRHS Convention LOGO Contest Official Entry Form

**Design a graphic that will be the symbol of the 2023 MRHS Convention. It can contain an image/ drawing, a stylized name or symbol, and/or words or letters, but nothing copyrighted.**

NOTE: This "fillable" form can be completed on your computer or electronic device by typing into the displayed fields. Then save and/or print the completed form to submit with your entry.

### Contest Guidelines:

1. Design a logo that visually identifies the Convention and incorporates its theme: *Hosta Dreamin'*.
  2. The logo should be:
    - Distinctive and recognizable
    - Simple and visually appealing
    - Memorable and impactful, capturing attendees' attention and the Convention spirit.
  3. Artwork doesn't have to be professional—your ideas are need!
  4. Artwork must be original and not contain copyrighted text, images, or characters.
  5. Contest is open to all SOGHS members in good standing.
  6. Submit as many entries as you like.
  7. Entries must be received by Monday, March 15, 2021.
  8. Winner to be announced at the April 2021 SOGHS Member Meeting.
  9. Contest prize is the prestige of having your design assigned to the Convention, and a \$50 VISA gift card! (Thanks to the SOGHS Board!)
  10. Submit your design electronically, or by US mail:
    - Submit electronically by emailing your entry form and design as an attachment (jpeg, tiff, png, pdf, pptx, ppt, psd, doc, or docx) to: [SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com](mailto:SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com)
- OR**
- Submit by US mail by sending your entry form and design on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of white paper to: SOGHS 2023 MRHS Convention Contest, c/o Joe/Chris Parisi, 3200 Wright Rd SW, Rochester, MN 55902.

### Your Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

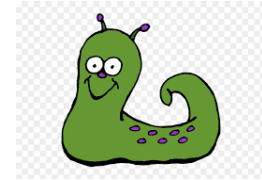
Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX) \_\_\_\_\_

**Good luck and get designing!  
Enter early and enter often!  
(Examples of prior convention logos are below)**

Due to space constraints, we are not including the logo examples in the newsletter, but they are on the website in the "Members' Only" section.

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# Fall Slug Control



*Reprinted from the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society's September 2020 Newsletter*

**by Mary Bardens**

Did you know that fall is still egg-laying time for slugs? We tend to forget about them as the hosta leaves change color and head into dormancy. The slugs will be active until the soil temperatures reach freezing when they will go into hibernation until the spring thaw. So, until that happens, they will lay eggs. Mating will occur from August until mid-October with eggs laid about 30-40 days after that. Look for 1/8 to 1/4 inch sized gelatinous clusters of about 20-30 spheres. Older slugs will lay larger quantities. The eggs may be hard to see as they can reflect their surroundings. When the eggs are near hatching, the spheres may become cloudy. Slugs love those piles of leaves, damp from heavy dews and fall rains. Look for them under anything that will keep them cool and moist. Other favorite places will be flower pots, boards, cooled compost piles, at the edge of large rocks or under mulch.

## **So the big question is-what to do?**

- 1. Eliminate their favorite spots.** Clean up the old hosta leaves and other debris. Turn the compost pile to make it too hot to be attractive for them. Check under those flower pots before you store them.
- 2. Set a slug trap.** They are attracted to any fermenting food: beer or a mixture of sugar, yeast and water. Sink a tuna can to 1" of ground level so they will crawl in and drown. If you put it flush to the ground you run the risk of drowning ground beetles which are a slug predator. Replace beer weekly.
- 3. Go on a slug hunt.** Late at night or very early morning, grab a flash light and bucket of soapy water to drop them into after hand picking. Slugs are nocturnal and love to hit the all night hosta diner. Watch for the little ones. Like teenagers, they are voracious eaters. You can even use a handheld vacuum to suck up the little pests.
- 4. Encourage a predator to hang out in your garden.** Toads, turtles, owls, Mourning Doves, and Robins love slugs. And then there are some predators that we may not be too thrilled coming upon in the hosta bed that also feast on slugs: black ground beetles, opossums, shrews, wild turkeys, chipmunks, skunks, and moles.
- 5. Iron Phosphate.** Slug bait pellets made from this can stop slugs without poisoning birds, small pets, humans or earthworms. Though they are not sure exactly why, iron phosphate inhibits the slugs from feeding. And, it is actually good for the soil. This is sold under the names of Sluggo, Es-car-go, and Safer's Slug & Snail Bait.
- 6. Metaldehyde.** This is a molluscicide which means it is a poison that kills slugs and can be purchased in a form to spray on the hostas. It is very effective for killing slugs, but also earthworms and other things with which it comes in contact. Great care in handling, application and storage must be observed.
- 7. Ammonia Solution.** A solution of household ammonia (1 part ammonia to 5 parts water) in a spray bottle with the nozzle set on a direct stream and sprayed directly on the slug will kill it in a few seconds. This solution will not harm the plants.
- 8. Barriers.** Copper tape placed around the hostas repels slugs because as they slime across it, it causes a toxic reaction like an electrical shock. But if they find a leaf lying over the barrier, they get in. A product called Slug Defence is composed of a low density polyethylene plastic and vacuum grade table salt. It repels the slugs unless they try to get over it, and then the salt gets them. Although, I'm imagining it may also look like you tried to wrap your plants with little trash bag fences.
- 9. Abrasive Materials.** Eggshells, coffee grounds, sand, cedar shaving, hair or ash may be placed around plants which scratches the slugs' bodies causing them to dehydrate. Diatomaceous earth can also be used, but it is a very fine powder and you must wear a mask to keep from inhaling it. But, these products must all be kept dry to work, so they must be reapplied after a rain.
- 10. Biologic Control.** In Europe you may purchase the parasitic nematode *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* which is naturally occurring in their soil. This is a microscopic worm that enters the slug's body through natural openings and releases bacteria that multiplies and kills the slug in 4-16 days. It does not bother earthworms. It also has the ability to recycle and become part of the ecosystem in the absence of a host which would make it good for long term management. It is marketed under the name Nemaslug. But, don't try to add it to your Thompson & Morgan order just yet, it's still illegal here. Agricultural scientists collaborating from Ohio State U. and Purdue U. are doing parasitic nematode research to help protect crops in no-till fields which are most susceptible to slug damage. They are also evaluating the American parasitic nematode cousin, but so far none is as effective at the European relative. They are compiling data showing the safety of importing nematode *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* into our soil.

# Remembering Pat, a Founding Member

By **Cindy Tomashek**

In the mid 1990's I met **Pat Ferguson**, pictured, after a neighbor suggested I visit her to see what hostas she had for sale. As a serious, albeit beginner, collector, I made a point to stop by her house to check out the hostas and was not disappointed! Weekly visits to Pat's all summer long for years on end resulted in a friendship that led to a huge hosta collection and, more importantly, to a network of friendships with others who loved hostas. We also made more than one road trip to Shady Oaks Nursery. Needless to say, there wasn't much room in the trunk on the way home.



At the Celebration of Life honoring Pat a few SOGHS members reminisced about her love of hostas, road trips combining stops at quilt stores and nurseries, and how she generously shared her hostas by donating to our annual plant sales and auctions. She definitely inspired me to share my love of Hostas, which eventually led to SOGHS. There were other influences, but hers was the greatest. SOGHS awarded Pat an honorary/lifetime membership in 2006 to recognize her immeasurable

contributions.

RIP Pat. My crazy quilt garden is a living testament to your love of hostas and hosta people.

Forever grateful, Cindy

Pat's obituary, published in the Post Bulletin, states that she passed away from complications from dementia on Sunday, August 23. Pat was 86 years old and preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Lawrence Ferguson.

Pat was Master Gardener, and also a member of the Shades of Green Hosta Society, The Rochester Flower and Garden Club, and the Minnesota Rose Society. Pat's gardens welcomed neighbors and friends alike.

Quilting was another passion, having won several awards for her craftsmanship. In addition, she was active in as a volunteer at Mayo Clinic and St John's Church.

"Old gardeners never die. They just spade away and then throw in the trowel." – Herbert V. Prochnow

## *More Cancellations Due to Covid-19*

It looks as though our long-suffering capability will continue to be tested by the Corona virus. As much as we miss meeting face-to-face, the SOGHS board wants to protect the health and well being of our members and our group as a whole. As such, the following events have been canceled.

- \* The Fall Member Social - In-person meeting is canceled but a Zoom social could happen. Stay tuned.
- \* The Winter Snowflake Gala - Canceled.

We are holding onto hope of meeting again, but in the meantime, stay connected via the newsletter, website. And don't forget to stay tuned for notices of Zoom gatherings.



## Scratch And Dent Hosta Sale 2020



2020 assembly and pick-up looked very different but not the **Excitement** of adding Bob Solberg Hostas to our gardens, just in time for their winter naps. Can you believe it? A huge thank you to the 20 SOGHS members who ordered **Scratch & Dent** Hostas this year!

Sue Martino      SOGHS Membership Chair 2020

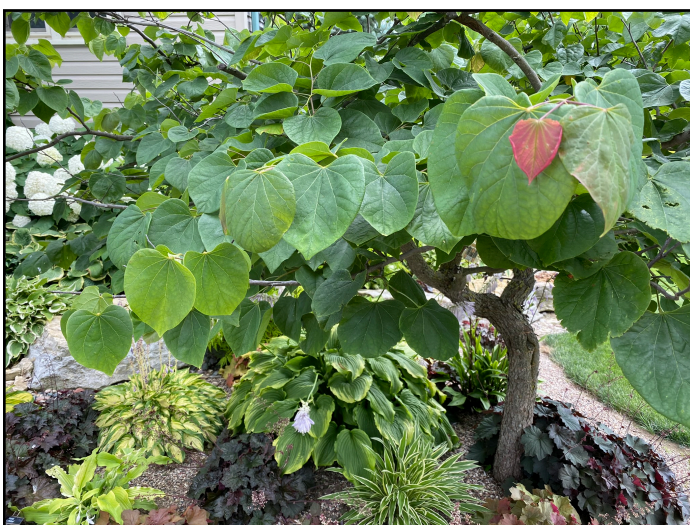
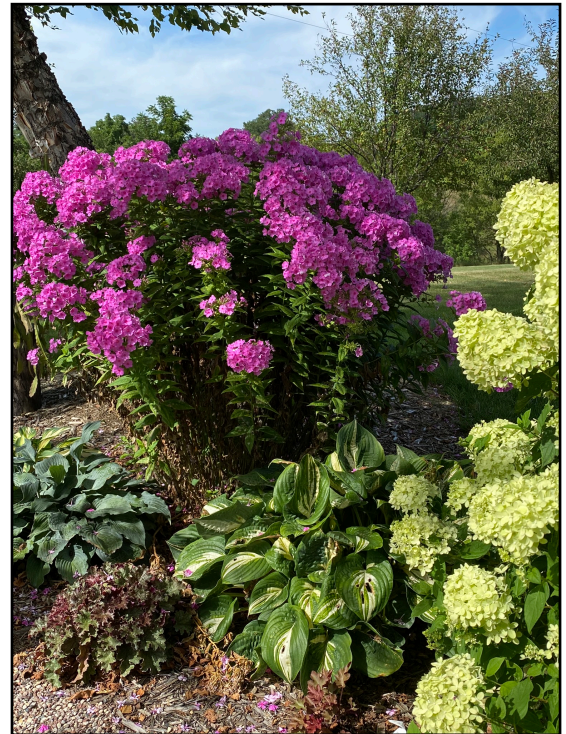
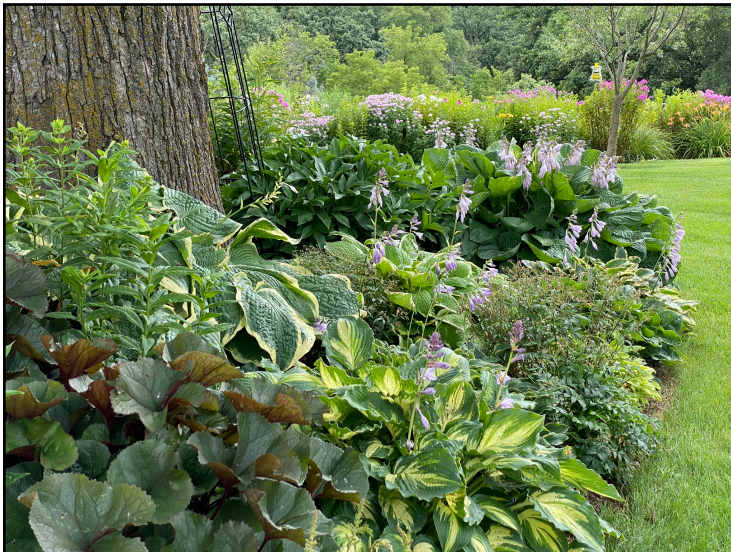


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**Photos by Cindy Tomashek of her Camp Creek Garden, Preston, MN**

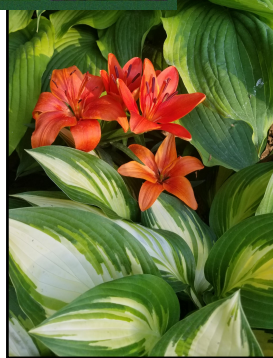
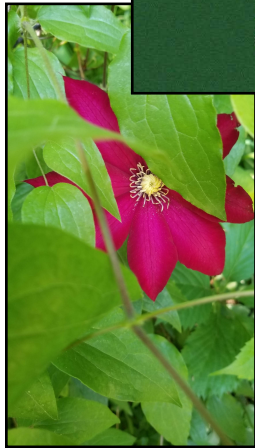
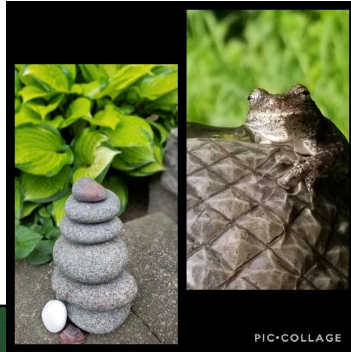
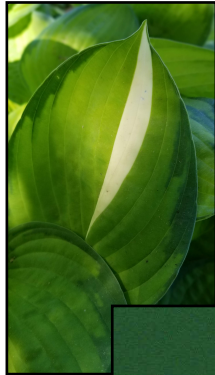
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SADLY, we were unable to offer member tours this year. THOUGH NOT a satisfactory substitute for a tour, the photo collages on the following pages are offered for your enjoyment by some of our board members.



The tour committee has big plans for 2021, in anticipation of an end to Covid-19. Stay tuned.

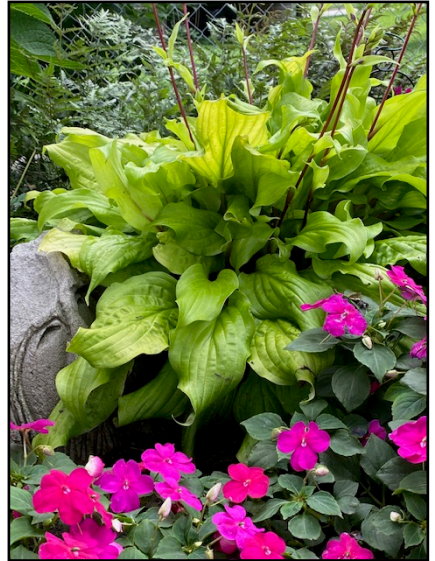
Photos by Sue Martino from Her Garden 2020



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**Photos by Kathy Rustad from Her Garden 2020**

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Kathy has a beautiful variety: H. 'Sum and Substance,' above; H. 'Candy Kisses,' center; and H. 'Mango Salsa,' right.

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**Below: Photos by Mary Lanier from Her Garden, Summer, 2020**

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