

# THE HOSTA LEAF

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

## SOGHS Board 2021

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## The President's Fall Message

By Kathy Rustad

Thank goodness for cooler days, lower humidity and sunshine!

Driving back from the lakes district of Minnesota after a lovely Labor Day weekend with friends, I saw a wagon of pumpkins for sale. It had not hit me until then that autumn was right around the corner. My thoughts quickly turned to fall décor, garden produce and (ugh) garden clean-up!

We recently took down a 60-foot, 35-year-old ash tree leaving our back yard without a majestic canopy to shelter my hosta gardens. It's time to start thinking about new landscape and (dare I say outside earshot of my husband) new hosta beds. The few hostas I dug up around the tree will go into my "hosta daycare" raised bed for the winter in hopes of an adequate home in the spring. Wish me luck!

Nothing seems to stay the same does it? From our gardens to the world around us, things are ever changing. It is with heavy hearts that we say good-bye to Jack Barta, a long-time friend of the hosta community. As you may have already heard, Jack passed away peacefully on Friday, September 3. I remember Jack fondly from seeing him at many hosta conventions and I fondly recall especially his hard work on the MRHS Winter Symposiums in the Milwaukee, WI, area. Thank-you, Jack, for sharing your knowledge and love of hostas with us all.

The world is unpredictable and we try to roll with the punches as best we can. To that end, we hold out hope of our first in-person SOGHS Member Meeting on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Be assured, we will keep a close eye on the Covid scene and *(Continued on Page 2)*



## Saying Goodbye But Not Farewell

My term as editor of The Hosta Leaf, the newsletter of Shades of Green Hosta Society, is coming to an end. It has been an absolute honor to disseminate news of our hosta society, the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and the American Hosta Society to you for the past seven years.

My foremost goal has been to keep membership informed of our activities and news and to provide you with educational articles in keeping with our mission.

I have created between four and six issues of The Hosta Leaf annually since 2014. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate all the board members and board presidents who faithfully provided timely and interesting articles. Thank you also to the membership for all the support and encouragement you have given me. I have worked with many fine individuals and look forward to continuing friendships and making more.

With my husband, Bill, retiring in September and our opportunity to spend more time at our family farm in Georgia, I am not available to be involved on a routine basis, but I plan to mark time to attend the conventions and be with you then.

With appreciation,

Mary Lanier, Newsletter Editor

## **President's Fall Message Continued from Page 1**

will act in the best interest of our members. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to this event.

Until then, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Founder's Day picnic on September 11. By the time this newsletter hits your (e)mail box, the event will have been held. Happily, you will find pictures in on pages 7 and 8 in this newsletter to spark fond memories of a lovely afternoon at Tomashek's Camp Creek Farm.

I look forward to "seeing" each of you soon.

Take care and stay well,

Kathy Rustad, SOGHS President

## **Oh, and One More Thing.....**

Drumroll brrrrrrr...total from the silent/live auction at the Founders' Day picnic, per our cash box is: \$1,467.

Live auction brought in \$655 (per Dave Cocker), the silent auction brought in \$587. And we had one IOU for \$225. ;-)

Special shout out to Tomasheks for hosting this wonderful event at their lovely farm.

Last but not least Thank-you to Jan Suter and all the helpers that made this a fun and profitable event for SOGHS!!

See you all at the October 7 member meeting. - Kathy

## **We are Back - Meeting in Person!!!**

***And We Would Love to See You at Our Next Meeting***

***October 7, 2021***

***6:30 PM***

***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***

***559 20th Street SW***

***Rochester, MN***

# What a Fun Summer Car Tour



Enjoying a beautiful summer day at Winter Greenhouse display gardens are SOGHS members, from left, Sue Martino, Barb Threinen, June Stoehr, Dorothy Wichman VaLinda Wondrasch and Sharon Blough. Winter Greenhouse is a popular nursery and garden center near Hayward,

**O**ur final overnight car pool trip for this year was on Friday July 30, through Saturday July 31. Our great group consisted of Barb Threinen, who organized this trip for us and did a wonderful job, and fellow travelers VaLinda Wondrasch, Dorothy Wichman, Sue Martino, June Stoehr and Sharon Blough. We went to Wisconsin to visit and shop at some old favorites and discovered some new favorites. We met at Casey's outside of Oronoco to leave cars and carpool together on our adventure. Our stops included: Bergmans Greenhouse in Clayton WI, and then on to The Potters Shed in Shell Lake WI. We had lunch at a unique place call The Red Schoolhouse in Stone Lake, WI, and sat out on the patio in beautiful weather. Thanks to Barb this was our surprise lunch stop. We then went to Winter Greenhouse in Winter, WI, which is familiar to many of our Shades of Green Hosta Society from past trips. The display gardens were great as was the variety and quality of the plants. We all found many plants that we just had to take home with us.

**W**e, of course, stopped at another favorite: Klingers Farm Market. We stayed overnight at the Americinn in Eau Claire, WI, and went out for the traditional Friday Fish Fry. Saturday morning we had more stops in Eau Claire: Green Oasis and Mays Floral and Tin Roof Garden Center.

Our next stop was to be Down to Earth Garden Center. However this is where we took an unexpected detour into the countryside of Wisconsin by following the wrong white pickup truck. Things got interesting when we discovered, after driving about 13 miles into the countryside, that we were following the wrong vehicle! We realized that this couldn't be Barb's truck as hers does not have Wisconsin plates, and this one did, and there were no plants in the back window. Couldn't be Barb! Once we found our group again we had a nice lunch and shopping visit. We then headed for the perfect stop for dessert, Nelson Creamery, for ice cream. We went home with all our plants and renewed friendships. Thanks again to Barb for a great adventure, just what we needed after this last challenging year of Covid.



# CONVENTION CONNECTION

## ***Hosta Dreamin' is a dream away...***

Mark your calendars for the 2023 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention, ***Hosta dreamin'***, that will be held in Rochester, July 13-15, 2023.



### ***Plans for the 2023 MRHS Convention are taking shape...***

Enthusiastic chairpersons of the major convention committees recently toured the hotel venue and were full of ideas to make the Convention truly exceptional. At a meeting of the convention chairs in late September, volunteer needs, budgets, and exciting ideas will be shared.

**THANK YOU** to the many SOGHS members who already have volunteered to be a part of the Convention. Volunteers are needed in all areas, and although the Convention is a way off, it's not too early to think about how you can help.

Please consider participating by becoming a Convention volunteer. Use the email link below to contact us with your area(s) of interest and we'll get back to you with volunteer opportunities.

### ***Convention ideas needed...***

Your ideas for Convention activities and educational session topics are welcome.

***Help make the 2023 MRHS Convention extraordinary—please email: [SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com](mailto:SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com) with your ideas and participation!***

Joe Parisi & Kathy Rustad  
Midwest Regional Hosta Society Co-chairs

- VaLinda Wondrasch  
*Trips and Tours*





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## MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Membership in the society is \$20.00 for two years. Members receive two issues per year of the society's newsletter, *The Hosta Leaves*. **First-time members receive a voucher for \$10.00, good for purchases at our participating Hosta Vendors.**

In addition there are two meetings held annually. The Winter Conference is held in the Milwaukee area in early February. It is a one-day event with an assortment of speakers that present the latest information pertaining to Hostas and gardening with them. All of this is offered in an enjoyable and down-to-earth format with something for everyone interested in gardening and learning more about Hostas.

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.

### Midwest Regional Hosta Society Membership

Send your completed membership application and check to:

Kathy Rustad  
4011 10th Avenue NW  
Rochester, MN 55901



[Printable MRHS Membership Form](#)

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## AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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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.
- Access to an online 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

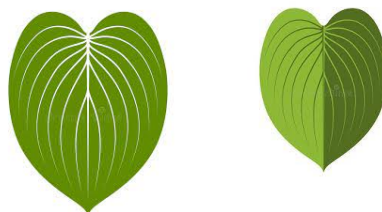
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[Join the AHS or Renew your Membership Online](#)

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<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>

Barry Ankney  
AHS Membership Secretary  
1104 Oxford Court





# Mark Your Calendars Now for Winter Gala Return!

**Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the very popular SOGHS Winter Gala will be returning on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at the Willow Creek Golf and Country Club.**

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*While plans currently are incomplete, the date has been set-- so mark your calendars and plan to enjoy what promises to be another fun and festive evening with hosta friends new and old.*

*A meeting of the planning committee will be taking place in late-October. If you have ideas for the event, or would like to be a member of the planning committee, please contact Joe/Chris Parisi at: [casaparis@charter.net](mailto:casaparis@charter.net).*

**Information about the 2022 Gala will be sent by email and posted on the SOGHS website.**





## A note from Our Founder:

It was great to gather in person for the 2021 Founders Day Picnic - COVID style! We had near normal attendance and were able to spend the entire day outdoors thanks to a mostly sunny sky and warm temps. As usual, there were abundant donations for the silent and live auctions, meaning there were some bargains and some hot bidding. Many thanks to all donors, especially Jeff Miller/LOTG for a few very special hostas, including H. 'Giantland Golden Dome', which sparked an intense bidding war! All the winning bids totaled around \$1500!

Whether you placed a winning bid or not, we all won a great day of reconnecting with friends. Let's all continue doing our part to end the pandemic so restrictions don't limit our interactions to Zoom.

Many thanks to photographer extraordinaire, Joe Parisi, for photos capturing Founders Day!

- *Cindy Tomashek, (left) hostess and auctioneer extraordinaire*

## Jay Maier to Present at Oct. 7 Meeting

As of this writing, we will be meeting in person for the October meeting in the Fellowship Hall, Good Shepherd Church, 559 20<sup>th</sup> St SW, Rochester. Current COVID protocol at GSC: **Masks are required when entering and leaving the building or moving between rooms (in halls, narthex and entryways; if unvaccinated, masks are required at all times, and are strongly encouraged at all times for everyone else).**

**Our presenter, Jay Maier,** is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, holds a B.S. in Forestry and is the General Manager at Sargents, the green industry leader in Southeast Minnesota. He is passionate about trees and all things green and living. Married for 27 years, Jay and his wife have 5 children and he's a self-described adventurer and life-long learner. Here is a synopsis of Jay's talk (somewhat paraphrased from what Jay sent):

**Will that tree grow here?** We will consider 10-15 trees that are less familiar, such as American Sycamore, Tulip tree, bald cypress, and more that are currently being used in our area. We will discuss plant hardiness zones and what conditions can inform us how to best achieve success with these trees. There will be plenty of time for Q & A, which can relate to anything about trees (pruning, planting, insects, diseases, abiotic issues, and more).

**Be prepared with questions** (I have a few!). Hope to see you Thursday, October 7, 6:30 pm (business meeting) followed by a brief social time. Program will begin at 7:30. - *Cindy Tomashek, Programs*



# Founder's Day Picnic at Tomashek Farm



PHOTOS by JOE PARISI





# How late is too late to plant hostas?

August is a great time to plant hostas almost anywhere in the country. You can safely plant them all month in the Midwest and North and the latter half of the month in the South. My standard rule is you want to get them in the ground 4-6 weeks before the first frost. This allows them to make some new roots while the soil is still warm and then have some time to prepare for winter.

Most of us, though, have planted hostas in the ground later than that with good success. I have planted them as late as the first week of November without any noticeable ill effects. You do run a risk with late planting however. Hostas are completely dormant during the winter, and they will not produce new roots until after they have made new foliage in the spring. They literally sleep through the winter.

Late planted hostas may rot over the winter if 1) the ground is frozen and stays frozen shortly after they are planted, 2) they are very dry when the ground freezes, 3) the soil stays too wet because of poor winter drainage or 4) heaving occurs during cycles of the soil freezing and thawing. Snow cover or a covering of mulch will help with all these situations. Remember, blue hostas, as well as many gold hostas, with *H. sieboldiana* and *H. Tokudama*' parents as well as some *H. longipes* types are the most susceptible to winter kill. Miniature hostas may also completely heave out of the ground, resulting in cold damage to the crown.

So, with late hosta planting, first make sure the plants are full of water when the first hard frost hits. Then try a little mulch to protect the hosta crowns and moderate soil temperatures. (Beware! Deep mulches may entice mice and voles to make their winter homes in your hosta garden.) With a little luck from the winter weather you can probably extend your planting season another month or so, even after the first frost. - an article by Bob Solberg from the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

## *Scratch & Dent Delivers on H. Pineapple Salsa*

The SOGHS's Scratch & Dent 2021 sale is a "wrap." Twenty-nine SOGHS members ordered 96 of Bob Solberg's BEAUTIFUL Green Hill Farm's hostas from our club's annual Scratch & Dent sale in August.

Bob happened to be traveling from his Franklinton, NC, garden-heaven to Minneapolis mid-August. He called and offered to bring the SOGHS's order in their growing pots instead of bare root wrapping and mailing them IF we could get our order to him within the week. (whew!) The SOGHS folks responded and the plants hopped on Bob's truck, and arrived in Rochester in lovely condition! What an unexpected bonus.

Bob also donated one of each of the six hosta Scratch & Dent selections for our Founders Day Silent Auction! (so, if you missed out on ordering, I hope you checked out the Silent Auction table and got lucky!)

...And, look what we have to look forward to next Spring: In twenty-three SOGHS members' gardens there will be the **BRAND-NEW-TO-THE-MARKET** hosta, **H. PINEAPPLE SALSA!** Rumor has it that a basket of chips may grow next to each plant!!! (Who knows!?!?)

- Jan Suter,  
member fundraising.