



The Hosta Leaf

April 2013

Volume 8 Issue 2



Happy Spring...um... Winter? Whatever this is... Everyone!

This weather has been crazy. I have to say I was very happy to see March come in like a "lion" so we can hopefully see it go out like a "lamb." (I really don't want to have to wait until March 31st for that to happen!) As a skier and gardener I have been happy to see the snow as both are "healthy" for my hobbies; however I do have to admit that I am growing a bit impatient for Spring to finally arrive.

We have a lot going on this year. To get us all geared up for the gardening season, back by popular demand is the "Ask the Experts" Q&A Panel. Get your questions ready as you're sure to learn a ton at the April 4th meeting. Unfortunately I will miss the meet as I will

Our annual Hosta Sale is coming up on May 18th. If you have plants to donate for the sale, that would be wonderful. We are so fortunate to have such a generous membership that gives freely of their time to help do setup, work the plant sale, and provide a huge number of plants that have made our sale so very popular in the community. I talked to a number of people last year that drove in from neighboring states to purchase our hostas, keep up the great work everyone!!

One of our dedicated members, Sherrie Bowe, has been working hard to help homeless youth. I have to admit that I was unaware of the magnitude of this situation until I heard a program about it on National Public Radio a few years ago talking about the extra set of challenges these young people face. To help raise awareness of the issue along with funds and donations of much needed items, Sherrie has organized a Garden Fair held on June 1st. There will be vendor booths, seminars, kids' activities and more. Our club will be sponsoring a booth at the fair; if you have a few hours to spare on that day and are interested in helping out, please let me know. For those

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be on a business trip in warm, sunny Austin, TX. I'm bound and determined to experience Spring one way or the other!

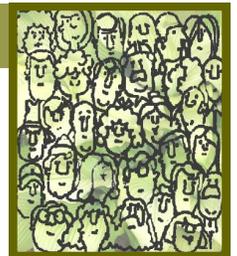


Membership Moments By Mona Keehn

Even though we are receiving winter weather, the sunny days are reminiscent of early Spring days. And even though I am ready for spring, I am very thankful that we are not getting the warm weather of last March. I am happy to wait for the hosta pips to emerge when the threat of a hard frost is gone.

Our membership is holding strong. We currently have 211 members, which is a great number to start

our year. Last year at this time we had 203 members. Help promote SOGHS by inviting your friends to join you this coming season. You are our best advertisement!



Please welcome our newest members

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Joyce Malinowski | Mark and Karen Godsey |
| Greg and Pam Lica | Dorothy and Dillon Denison |
| Doug and Mary Thompson | |

SOGHS 2013 Officers

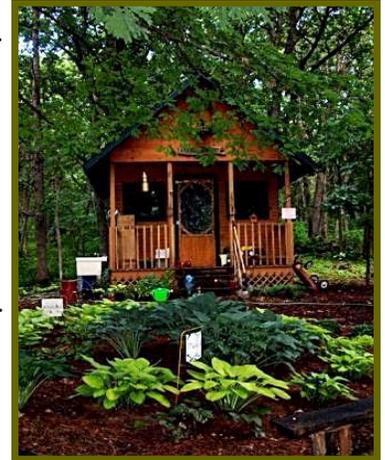
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Hosta Hot-Spot for the month...

Reed's Valley Hosta Gardens in Sparta, WI

www.reedsvalleyhostagardens.com is between Bangor and Sparta tucked away on a little country road. It has really nice hosta display gardens and great looking hostas at reasonable prices.

Jeff and Lynne Reed 's website says, "Visit us and enjoy our beautiful gardens. You will leave with a pleasant memory, and a desire to come back. Gardens are open from May to October (weather permitting)
Hours are 9 am - 6 pm daily
7 days a week"



Hosta Sale

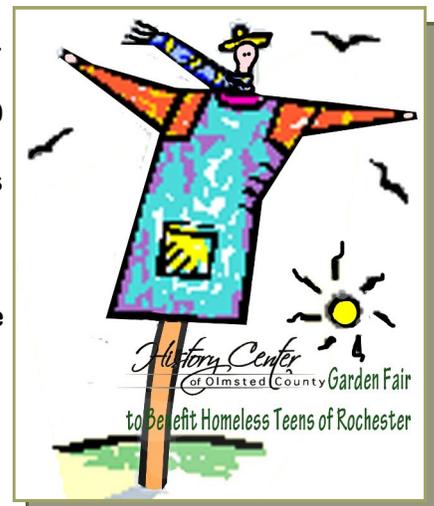
Our annual sale is quickly approaching. Set up will be Friday, May 17th & the sale Saturday, May 18th. Sign up sheets and sale coupons will be available at the April 4th meeting. Please be thinking about how you can help. If anyone has any questions before the meeting please call Denny Bowe - 282-7032. Hostas in need: If you

have one or more of these hostas you can add to the sale, here is what our regulars have been asking for: hostas June, Montana, Guardian Angel, Strip Tease, Abiqua Drinking Gourd, and Patriot. If you need help digging hostas for the sale, contact Denny.

First Ever....

A Gardening Fair will be held Saturday, June 1 at the History Center of Olmsted County from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. There will be exhibitors from nurseries, crafters, demonstrations and kid activities. Food and beverages will also be available to purchase. Anybody interested in a booth to display or sell items please contact Sherrie Bowe - 282-7032. Rental space is \$50.00 with all proceeds benefiting homeless teens in Rochester.

Thank you! Sherrie



HOSTAMANIA IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST!

MRHS Convention July 11 – 13, Lisle, IL

Local hosta societies throughout the Midwest are being asked to identify members afflicted with the malady called HOSTAMANIA! The Northern Illinois Hosta Society has developed intensive treatment options that will be available only to those who come to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Lisle, IL, July 11 – 13, 2013. HOSTAMANIA is the unstoppable second stage of hostaholicism, which was most thoughtfully addressed at the 2012 MRHS Convention by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeastern Minnesota.

Symptoms of HOSTAMANIA include:

Persistent feelings that one possesses an inadequate number of hostas
A shortage of exceptional hosta gardens to visit in the sufferers' hometowns
Limited opportunity to learn even more about hostas and other plants
Not enough occasions to interact with other hosta lovers

Among the therapies offered at the convention:
Ten vendors of the latest hosta varieties, companion plants, and more
Hosta auction and leaf show

A tour of ten beautiful, private gardens that feature countless hostas
Opportunities to visit renowned public gardens
Seminars led by popular, knowledgeable speakers
Lots of fellow HOSTAMANIACS who are crazy about hostas

Nutrition issues will be the focus of two dinners at the headquarters treatment facility, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (HMHQ). Many excellent restaurants are nearby for other meals.

The cost of addressing the HOSTAMANIA disorder is quite reasonable: A fee of \$119 covers all remedies mentioned above. Accommodations at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/N/NAPHIHF-CMRH-20130711/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) cost only \$96 per night plus tax; full breakfast, pool, workout room, and parking are included.

Additional information at www.mrhs2013.org will be updated regularly.



**Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm
holding up until your back gets used to it.**

~Author Unknown



Howdy Hosta Friends!

Spring may be here meteorologically as well as on the calendar, but Mother Nature has a mind of her own! I must say each snowflake or rain drop is most welcome and our hostas will be better off for this ongoing winter, even if this moisture only runs off – at least it will help replenish our surface and ground water!

Our meeting on April 4th

will feature an ‘expert panel’ of hostaphiles from the Minnesota Hosta Society: Gregg Peterson (loves yellow hostas, the bigger the better), Bob Olson (Editor of The Hosta Journal who seems to carry in his head every article ever submitted to THJ), Ross Johnson (hybridizer, busy dad of two), and Mary Schwartzbauer (past President of AHS, multi-tasking is her specialty!). Be sure to think about what your hosta/gardening related questions are and be prepared to submit them at our meeting.

On another note, once the snow melts I will be looking for volunteers to help clean up the display garden at RCTC. If you’d be interested in helping out throughout the summer, let me know – our obligation is to do weeding/maintenance once a month throughout the gardening season and it only takes an hour or two, especially if there are a couple of us.

**The excitement is growing!
Cindy**

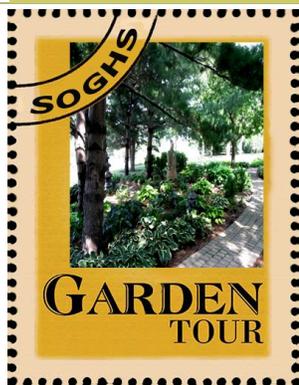
of you that have a craft or product you would like to sell or promote, please contact Sherrie to get a booth reserved.

Jan Gerke has lined up a wonderful set of tours for us this year. The Coulee Carpool Caravan is taking place in early May and the June bus trip is always a great time. If you haven’t signed up yet, there is still time! Our Spring Open House will be held at Rick and Mona Keehn’s and will be held on a Wednesday evening this year. Note the change in location and the day of the week!! We’re trying something different with our member garden tours this year. To have a built in rain date and to offer more flexibility in people’s schedules, both the June and July member garden tours will be offered on two consecutive evenings, check the calendar of events for more details.

If you’d like to get more involved in SOGHS, volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know other club members, learn from fellow hostaholics, and do something to help the club and community. Cindy is looking for volunteers to help with maintenance of the hostas at the RCTC display gardens and we are looking for volunteers for a workshop committee. Please step forward if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

Wishing each of you “warm” thoughts and hoping to be able to get out in the gardens soon!!

Kim Greene



Gardens and Shopping Tours... Great Shady Times!

Spring has finally sprung and soon our gardens will be bursting with life and the nurseries will be buzzing! Now is the time to plan your touring year, so read on to learn what's in store for 2013.

Our touring year begins on Saturday, May 4th with a Coulee Carpool Caravan to the LaCrosse area to visit the Riverside International Friendship Gardens in LaCrosse, plus Christens Farm Nursery in Onalaska. If there is interest, we could go back to Reeds in Sparta or Cottage Grove in West Salem, or maybe stop at Shades of Green USA in West Salem, so let me know if any of these stops sound appealing. In addition, we plan to visit a few private gardens. Based on recent weather, our May 4th date could move to Sunday, June 2nd so make sure to provide me a phone number or email address if you plan to make this trip. Also, other carpool tours are being set up to the Claremont area and maybe some private Decorah gardens. Watch for more info in future newsletters or at the SOGHS website or contact me to find out the latest if you don't want to miss out.

Mona and Rick Keehn are hosting this year's Spring Open House on Wednesday, May 22nd. Come enjoy their beautiful gardens and make some new hostaholic friends. Plus there will be an educational talk and silent auction...donations are much appreciated, by the way!

Happy Hosta Hawkeye Holiday. That's our 2013 bus tour to northeast Iowa on Saturday, June 8th. If you haven't seen the flyer yet, we are stopping at Willowglen Nursery (www.willowglennnursery.com) in Decorah, Fran Mara Garden in Oelwein, In The Country Garden and Gifts (www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com) in Independence, and K&K Gardens (www.kkgardens.com) in Hawkeye. On this tour, you will be treated to a talk on willows or garden design, enjoy a beautiful conifer and rock garden, plus visit great display gardens with water features and wonderful shopping for hard-to-find hostas and unique perennials. Don't forget the "door" (okay, bus) prizes drawn enroute home! Sign up either at the April meeting or by contacting me, Jan Gerke at (507)259-7096, janice.gerke@gmail.com. Price remains \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members and sign up opens to the public on May 1st.

The June member garden tour is set for Wednesday, June 19th and Thursday, June 20th and the July member tour is Tuesday, July 16th and Wednesday, July 17th. These garden tours are two-day events to allow more members to make them, plus provide built-in rain dates. They are scheduled from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. If you would like to share your garden with others, here's your chance (let me know if the two day format causes you problems). What a great incentive to get your garden in shape for the year! As a special thank you gift from SOGHS in appreciation for your generosity, you can choose from H. 'Slim and Trim' (blue), H. 'Monica's Golden Crinkles' (yellow), or H. 'Lakeside Hoola Hoop' (bright green with yellow margins) if you put your gardens on tour this year. They are all small to medium hostas. Sign up at our member meeting in April or contact me at (507)259-7096, janice.gerke@gmail.com. I'm always looking for potential member tour gardens, so if 2013 doesn't work, how about 2014?



Fran Mara Garden in Oelwein

Tom Micheletti, Becki Micheletti, Cindy T., Mona K., Mary Schwartzbauer, Marcia Sulley (photographer, Kevin Plumley)



Sandy Wilkins, the "mother" of Hosta College



Jeff Miller, Presenter. Topic: "Land of the Giants"



J. Miller's Hybridizing slide

Getting an education at Hosta College

Photos by Cindy Tomashek

Hosta College 2013

This was my third year attending Hosta College hosted by The Great Lakes Region in Piqua, Ohio. While some things haven't changed much in those 3 short years, like the long drive and the great people who make it fun, this year's event was superior! The GLR Board, along with the attendees, celebrated the 20th year of Hosta College. We were treated to a wonderful re-cap of how Hosta College was born and grew thanks to Sandy (Straka) Wilkins – the "mother" of Hosta College – and a host of GLR Board members. There were 367 attendees (more or less J) this year, so they have certainly developed an event to be proud of!

This year's class offerings ranged from various Hosta topics to Cypripedium, garden design, best garden tips and tools, etc. There were some unforeseen challenges this year as well because some instructors became ill and one was in an accident, being unable to attend. The GLR Board managed to pull in a couple of last minute instructors, however, and everything ran smoothly. One of those last minute

instructors was Dan Coffman of Trillium Woods Nursery who taught a terrific class on Trillium.

Hosta College also includes an auction, vending, and raffles. I won a lovely concrete mushroom (see photo above) for the garden and Mona Keehn won a garden tote stuffed with an assortment of tools, for which we are especially grateful to the generous donors! Even if I had come away with nothing tangible, the conversations, classes, hugs, and smiles were enough to keep me looking forward to next year.

Now I have to go water one of the hostas I brought home to keep the excitement growing!

Cindy

Hosta College door prize, freebies and a few vending purchases



Welcome to the 2013 AHS Convention

The 2013 AHS Convention is coming to Milwaukee, WI, June 13-15. There has never been an AHS convention in Milwaukee before and the gardeners are excited to have us visit their area and their gardens.

Things To Do In Milwaukee

There are **many local cultural things** to do in Milwaukee either before or after the convention. The Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes, Boerner Botanical Gardens, The Harley Davidson Museum, Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, The Milwaukee Art Museum, Miller Brewery Tours, Jelly Belly Candy Factory Tours, The Pabst Mansion, The Milwaukee County Zoo and many more. Visit the ["Links"](#) and ["Things To Do"](#) pages for more details and information on what Milwaukee has to offer.



Tour Gardens

*In addition to all of the cultural activities, we also have **ten wonderful personal gardens to tour**. See the ["Tour Gardens"](#) page for a preview.*

Schedule

As previously noted this convention will follow an abbreviated schedule from previous conventions, but rest assured this convention will have all of the events expected from a national convention.

*We begin on the evening of **Thursday June 13** with the opening of vending, leaf show prep, and hostality. **Friday June 14** will have the leaf show, vending, garden tours, speakers, auction plants received, silent auctions, awards banquet, and hostality. **Saturday June 15** vending continues, as do garden tours, AHS business meeting luncheon, live auction, awards banquet, future convention meeting, and hostality. Check out our SOGHS website for a link to the schedule.*

Registration

*The cost for this convention extravaganza is **\$139 per person**. In order to be able to offer this reasonably low cost, we will drive and carpool to the gardens. Attendees will be encouraged to carpool to gardens as parking is limited. Written directions and maps will be provided.*

Attendees flying in to Milwaukee and have not made prior arrangements with fellow attendees to carpool will be accommodated and every effort will be made to pair up attendees needing rides with attendees that have rides to offer. As the hosta has been called the friendship plant we are confident there will not be any problem accommodating all attendees. See our website to find the registration link.

Hotel

*The Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel is the host site. In addition to superb accommodations, they have offered us a **room rate of \$105 per night** which includes a hot buffet breakfast. To make reservations call 1-800-325-3535 or 1-262-364-1100. The hotel also has a free shuttle service from Milwaukee's Mitchel Airport. Book rooms early! There is an automobile race in Milwaukee that same weekend and hotel rooms will be at a premium! See our website for a link to details about the hotel.*

Auction

*If you would like to make a **auction donation** and are unable to bring it with you to the convention, see the ["Contacts"](#) page for further information.*

This convention is hosted by a couple of cheeseheads.

Tom Micheletti and Jack Barta

Susy Olsen
 SOGHS Newsletter Editor
 1427 15th Ave
 Rochester, MN 55901
 507-281-4469



SOGHS 2013 Calendar of Events

April 4	Member meeting, back by popular demand, 'Ask the Experts Q&A Panel' *
May 1	Public sign-up for June SOGHS bus tour
May 4	May carpool tour: LaCrosse Area
May 18	SOGHS Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale, Bldg 40, Olmsted County Fairgrounds
May 22	Spring Open House
June 2	Alternate Date for the carpool
June 8	SOGHS bus trip
June 13-15	AHS National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
June 19 and 20	Member's only garden tour (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM)
July 11-13	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Lisle, IL
July 16 and 17	Member's only garden tour (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM)
July 18	Rochester Flower and Garden Club tours
July 22-28	Olmsted County Fair (don't forget the hosta leaf show!)
July 24	Master Gardener garden tours
September 7	Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction
September 24	Executive board meeting
October 3	General meeting open to the public / Board elections, Glen Herold, 'Best Trees and Shrubs for Hosta Gardens' *
October 29	Executive board meeting

Meeting Locations Fellowship Hall, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN