

THE HOSTA LEAF

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

SOGHS Board 2021

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The President's Letter

In the Season of ZOOM, We Are Learning to Adapt

"Necessity is the mother of invention" was first uttered by Plato over 2,000 years ago. Interesting how it is still true today! On February 4, a record 37 SOGHS members joined together via Zoom for our SOGHS Member Meeting where we heard from Josh Spece of *In the Country Garden & Gifts* in Independence, IA. Via Zoom, Josh gave us a wonderful look at up-and-coming hostas. His presentation was complete with beautiful photos of hostas to get our hearts and minds thinking about our own gardens this year. As I reflect back on that night, I am sincerely grateful for the technology that allows us to stay connected through this difficult period.



With this in mind, I hope you will again join us on April 8 for another SOGHS Zoom Member Meeting. Cindy has lined up a wonderful speaker, Joseph Tychonievich, presenting "Think Outside the Hosta.". A meeting notice will be coming later this month.

One of the tidbits I learned this year from the many hosta enthusiasts over Zoom meetings is to NOT disturb your gardens before the temperatures reach 50 degrees. An excerpt I found from "Savvy Gardening" (savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/) says, "Cutting down the dead plant stems too early in the **spring** will disturb them before they have a chance to emerge. Wait as long as you can to do your **spring garden clean up**. Ideally, you should wait until the daytime temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees F for at least 7 consecutive days." On a day like today with the sun shining and the temperatures above 40 degrees this is a hard lesson to follow but I will keep my fingers out of the ground for a bit longer.

It is not only the weather that gets me itching to get into my garden. Between Josh Spece's presentation and Jan Suter's wonderful HOTY selection offered to us this year, I am starting to plan my garden ideas for this year. This reminds me of the hilarious cheer posted by Paula Zollman, "Who are we? Gardeners! What do we want? All the Plants! Where will we put them? We don't know!"

May each of you have a wonderful spring and your gardens flourish! I hope to see your smiling faces at our next SOGHS member meeting and in the meantime, stay safe and stay well.

Kathy Rustad, SOGHS President



April Meeting

Joseph Tychonievich, via ZOOM

A Note of Gratitude From Deanna Nash

I was in St. Mary's hospital, in isolation, from January 4 - January 15 with Covid. I was home for a week on oxygen and on Jan. 23rd we had a visitation for my husband Tom who had gone home to be with his Lord and Savior on 1-3-2021 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on Dec. 11, 2020. On the 25th I entered Chosen Valley Nursing Home for rehabilitation. After 27 days of intense physical (lower half of body) and occupation therapy (upper half) I returned home still on oxygen but strong enough to live on my own. You will never know what the get-well cards meant to me. They and the notes they contained and text messages sent were all I had to look forward to in isolation. Many of you wrote to me more than once through this whole time and my time at Chosen Valley.

I want to thank the SOGHS for the memorial sent in remembrance of Tom, all of the sympathy cards, trees planted in his name, personal memorials, notes with personal memories of Tom. The children and I cherished each one and the love that was plainly evident for us.

Love to you all,
Deanna Nash and family

Our next meeting on April 8, 2021, will feature Joseph Tychonievich, "Thinking outside the hosta: great, unusual plants for the shade garden." Joseph Tychonievich gardens in his Williamsburg, VA, yard. And in a friend's yard. And with lights in his closet. He pretends that this is necessary research to write his books and magazine articles about gardening. Thankfully his husband accepts this as well as the unpredictable deluges of vegetables he grows, with grace. Joseph is the author of several books including *The Comic Book Guide to Growing Food: Step-by-Step Vegetable Gardening for Everyone* and *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*. He is the editor of the North American Rock Garden Society quarterly journal.



For more information on Joseph, check out his profile on the AHS Speaker list. We've never had the privilege of hearing Joseph speak, so I'm very excited to hear his take on great, unusual plants for shade, a topic Joseph assures me has been popular with hosta societies in the New England area.

Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding our October program.

Hope to "see" you (probably over Zoom in April) soon!

And don't forget, if you missed our Zoom meeting in February, you can still view Josh Spece's presentation in the member-only section of our web site. Thanks again to President Kathy Rustad for recording the presentation and to Joe Parisi for editing and adding special touches to it.

The excitement is growing,
Cindy Tomashek, Program chair

2021 Hosta Sale Plans

As of the writing of this article, the 2021 Hosta Plant Sale is on for Saturday, June 5th, 2021.

Reminder: To reduce congestion, we plan to have a two-day plant drop-off on Thursday, June 3, and Friday, June 4.

- Thursday, June 3, will be for dropping off larger loads of plants.
- Friday, June 4, will be for dropping off smaller loads of plants.

Parks and Recreation is limiting the number of people in the Horticulture Building to 75 people, SOGHS members and shoppers. We plan to have a one-way direction flow for the buyers. We will need people to help carry plants to the holding tables for shoppers.

Please plan to pick up pots and soil for your hosta digs. Please also give yourself enough time to clean your pots before you drop them off so that the plant sale workers can be spread out on the setup dates.

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

Based on information from Olmsted County Extension Master Gardeners, the follow is suggested to reduce the spread of jumping worms at plant sales and to help prevent Hosta Virus X transmission.

o**We will accept plants** from gardeners that have looked for jumping worms and use these practices to prevent their spread.

- Plants/materials do not come from an area known to have jumping worms.
- There is no suspicion, such as soil that resembles coffee grounds, of jumping worms at the site that produced these plants/materials.

o**Remove soil** from all plants and wash their roots before transplanting them to limit the spread of weeds and worms. This helps to remove earthworm cocoons (egg cases) or weed seeds.

o**Completely submerge plant roots** in water and wash away remaining soil. Actively look for worms. Water is sufficient to remove soil and other materials from the roots.

o**Change water** between plants to help prevent the spread of Hosta Virus X.

o **Disinfect digging tool** and root-washing container.

o**Repot with clean potting soil.** The SOGHS has clean potting soil and pots for you to use. We have had some plants with 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.

o**Do not use mulch**, leaves, backyard compost or material that may harbor jumping worm eggs.

o**Gather and transport** plants ready for sale on surfaces like concrete, tarps, or trays where the newly potted plants cannot pick-up contaminated materials like soil, leaves or mulch.

We will send out request for workers in April. Locations for soil and pot pick-up in Rochester are:

Paula Zollman's house - 2317 Lenwood Lane SW or Jenifer Magera's house - 3802 4th Place NW

-Paula Zollman, and Jen Magera, Plant Sale Co-chairs



H. 'Funny Bones' Is One of the Many HOTYS for 2021.

HOTYs Arrive at the End of May

Thanks to those who ordered hostas from our annual SOGHS HOTY sale! The Naylor Creek hosta plants will arrive near the end of May - ready for our gardens... so, get planning for that perfect spot! We'll let you all know the actual arrival date/disbursement times in May. Thanks for supporting the HOTY sale! Our sale of HOTYs is a perk for members while also being a fundraiser for Shades of Green Hosta Society.

Jan Suter, Fundraising



Anyone Care to Brainstorm All Things Gardening?

During recent conversations with various members I was inspired by all the IDEA SHARING on gardening. It got me thinking that this would give our SOGHS members an opportunity to share some of their wealth of knowledge in regards to Hosta/Companion Plant Gardening. With limited in-person gatherings over the next year it would give us time to ask EACH member to submit their 'Recipes,' their 'How-To' TIPS on gardening.

Submissions could come via email or snail mail. Might ANY of our members like to take on or assist with organizing this brainstorm? We can compile them and offer the information in both a digital format for our members and/or a printed copy. Additional copies would be available to NEW Members.

Topics might be:

- Prepping the soil for a new hosta bed
- Home remedies and natural solutions to garden challenges
- Composting
- Making compost tea
- How to deter deer
- How to deter slugs, voles, moles, rabbits
- Fairy gardening
- Cleaning the bed for the winter months
- Types of mulch
- Fertilizing
- Jumping Worms
- Stories of gardening passed through generations
- Poetry
- Garden Art

Please Contact me if you are interested in working on this project.

Linda Brech

mbrech@charter.net

February Zoom Presentation on Website

Hope you are all staying warm.

For those of you who missed our February 4 meeting on Zoom or would like to see our speaker Josh Spece's presentation again it is now on our website in the [Member's Only](#) section.

soghs.org username: soghs password: StainedGlass06

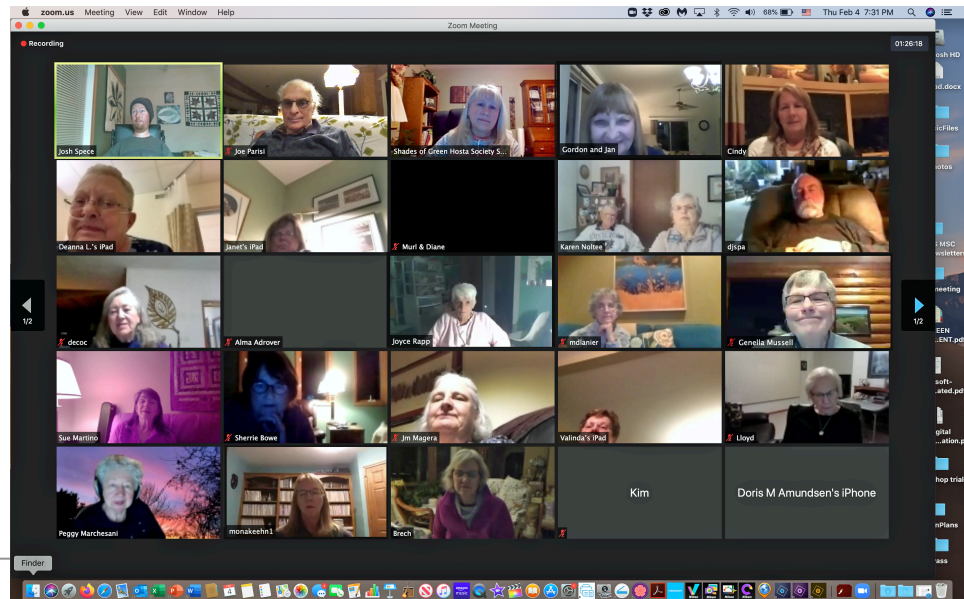
I would like to thank Joe Parisi for editing the video and helping me get it on the website.

To watch the video go to the [Member's Only](#) section. Sign in. Go to the bottom of the page. Click on the box in the upper right corner with the arrow in it. This will pop the video into a new window. Then click on the start button in the middle of the window. Then in the lower right corner click the full screen button. Enjoy.

Stay safe and stay warm.

Dave Cocker - Webmaster

Josh Spece, upper left, of
In the Country Nursery,
gave the presentation for
the February SOGHS
meeting.



Door Prize Winners via ZOOM From the Comforts of Home!

If you were participating in the February 4th, 2021, Member Meeting via ZOOM you might have been one of the lucky members to receive a Hostality Door Prize!! We had 6 lucky winners chosen randomly that evening. Winners included: Jen Magera (AHS 1-year membership). Karen Noltee (SOGHS 1-year membership). Carrie Schroeder (Pashmina Shawl/wrap, reversible gray with pink/turquoise floral). Sherrie Bowe (Lavender & Wheat filled purple velour neck/back wrap that can be warmed or chilled). Rhonda Berg (Minnesota Uff-Da package with MN socks, MN cookie cutter, Ole & Lena raspberry –habanero jam). And Jan Gerke (mini-bluebird thermometer for an outdoor planter).

Congratulations to these members. Your next opportunity to be chosen for a wonderful SOGHS Door Prize is the April member meeting. Come and join in on the fun from the comforts of home! **Linda Brech/Hostality**

CONVENTION CONNECTION

Hosta Dreamers WANTED!

Spring is in the air and hosta enthusiasts everywhere are ***Hosta Dreamin'!***

Hosta dreamin' also is the theme of the 2023 Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) Convention that will be held in Rochester. Although it's a way off, please consider participating by becoming a Convention chairperson or volunteer.

Committee chairs and members *needed...*

THANK YOU to many SOGHS members who already have volunteered to be a Convention Committee Chair or Volunteer. Although several positions have been filled, many positions still are available:

- **Committees needing a chairperson and volunteers:** Decorations, Vendors, Setup/Takedown, Publicity, and Logistics
- **Committees needing volunteers:** Garden Tours/Buses, Registration, Hospitality, Educational Programs, Leaf Show/Judge's Clinic, and Volunteer/Supply Officer

Convention ideas *needed...*

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

Stay tuned—a logo is coming...

After many months of anticipation, we'll be excited to reveal the logo for the Convention—stay tuned!

Help make the 2023 MRHS Convention extraordinary—please email: SOGHS2023MRHSConvention@gmail.com with your ideas and participation!

Joe Parisi, Co-chair
2023 MRHS Convention Committee

ZOOM January Social Though Unconventional, Was Fun, Educational

Our member social, far from being typical, was, nonetheless social and also entertaining and educational. Nineteen participants came with their beverage of choice (Wine anyone?) and settled in to enjoy seeing each other after a long, dry spell. Thanks to Kathy Rustad and Joe Parisi for putting together a well-run meeting and kudos to all who took the time and effort to participate.

Many of us signed in from our own living spaces, others were in warmer places, but Deanna Nash wins the participation award for tuning in from her hospital room at St. Marys where she was recuperating from Covid.

The way the meeting was run was really very orderly. The large group was subdivided into three smaller groups for 10-minute blocks of time during which each group discussed the same question. Between questions, the large group reassembled for a brief report on the answers. This is what we learned:

Question 1: What is your favorite blue hosta?

Answers: H. 'Halcyon' was mentioned several times along with Blue Angel, H. 'Blue Mammoth,' H. 'Blue Jay,' and H. 'Waterslide.' Perhaps you have a different favorite.

Question 2: Which hostas grow best in full sun?

Answers: H. 'Sun Power,' a vigorous grower was highly recommended. These also were mentioned: H. 'Liberty'; H. 'World Cup' (2018 Hosta of the year); H. 'Venusta,' a good understory hosta; H. 'Cherry Berry'; and Dave Cocker commented that fragrant hostas such as H. 'Plantigenea' will take a lot of sun.

Question 3: What vendors and catalogs do you use?

Plant Delight and Bob Solberg were mentioned along with Naylor Creek and Josh Spece's In the Country Nursery. Chris Parisi says that Northern Grown Perennials has a nice selection. Cindy Tomashek described the hosta plants that are mailed bare root as having substantial root systems that transplant well.

Kathy Rustad wanted to know what would work in a tough spot behind her garage, and H. 'Sun Power' was recommended.

To cap off the meeting, we played a game, devised by Joe Parisi, of "Name that Hosta." A slide depicted the hosta, and an accompanying song gave a clue. The first slide's clue was the song, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and the hosta pictured was H. 'Rainbow's End.'

It was a fun evening and really nice to have a little social time along with some education and discussion. Won't you join us next time? And hopefully, before too long, we once again will be able to meet in person.

Until then, Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

- Kathy Rustad and Mary Lanier

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.



*HOSTA'S FLOWERS ARE
THEIR
SMILES*



Special thanks to Karen Noltee for sharing some pages from her photo books. It's so nice to be able to see these beautiful flowers and dream of the months to come when we will be back in our gardens.



Hosta of the Year: *'Rainbow's End'*

With its dazzling mix of bright, shiny green leaves, it's difficult to miss H. 'Rainbow's End' in any garden. It's truly a stand out specimen both in containers and in the ground. The American Hosta Growers Association agreed and named this stunning beauty the Hosta of the Year for 2021. Any collector will love this pot of gold at "rainbow's end."

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available in sufficient supply, and retail for about \$15 in the year of selection. More details about this stunning beauty:

(Registered in 2005 by Hansen)

Color - Medio-variegated

Size - Small (11"ht x 21"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Purple with 16-19-inch showy burgundy scapes and lavender flowers

Growth - Somewhat slow

Parentage - sport of 'Obsession'

This yellow centered TC sport of 'Obsession' features very thick, dark green leaves with a flared center pattern. The bright yellow center becomes white by summer. Pale purple flowers on red scapes in late summer. PP#17,251

Tour Committee Is Optimistic about Activities

We hope to return to our schedule from last year with a small change of dates due to 2021. We hope to return to the Mennonite Nurseries, Amish Nurseries and K&K and In the Country Gardens in Iowa again in April/May. We also hopefully anticipate we can again have Member Garden tours in June as well as the annual bus tour. We also hope to be able to go on the overnight tour in July/August. We have a board meeting for the end of this month, March, where we will discuss how much of this planned schedule is safe to do and then will let people know as we know more. As Dusty Springfrseld sang, we are, "Wishing and Hoping and Planning and Dreaming." Hope springs eternal. Thanks for your understanding *Valinda Wandrash*, *Garden Tours* and the tour committee: *Deanna Nash*, *Jan Gerke*, *Dorothy Wichmann*, and *Barb Theinen*