



# The Hosta Leaf

August/September/October 2013

Volume 8 Issue 4

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Member of the American Hosta Society web site, at [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org) and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, at <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>



Wow, its August already and yet is almost feels like September. The evenings are getting darn right uncomfortable. I'm loving how the vegetable garden is producing, but have to say the amount of produce in it is a bit daunting; especially the tomatoes that are starting to ripen. Needless to say there will be LOTs of canning going on in another couple of weeks!

I know a number of you participated in the SOGHS garden tours and trips Jan Gerke, our VP of tours put together. For those of you that missed some of the year's happenings, Jan has done a great job of writing up a recap of the tour season! And for those of you

that participated in some or all of the tour activities, you'll have a fun time as you wander down memory lane. Thank you to all who put their gardens on tour for your fellow members to enjoy, what a gift you share.

If you're wondering what is up with the hosta leaf on my head in my picture this month, it's part of the American Hosta Society Convention festivities. At times some of our SOGHS members ( Jan, Susy, Linda, and me) have worn hosta hats at the AHS conventions. It's a bit silly, but quite a lot of fun. It has gotten to the point if I don't wear a hosta hat, people



inquire where my hat is. So there you have it, the reason your president looks so hosta festive. ☺ Check out the 'AHS Convention in Review' article for what else you missed!

Calling all volunteers ... Each year we have elections for about half of the board positions. This year we have the following board positions up for re-election or seats that will be open. I'd like to ask that you consider being nominated to fill these vacancies.

- President
- 2nd VP Programs/ Education
- Secretary/Historian
- Newsletter Editor
- Plant Sale Director
- Webmaster
- Membership fundraising

Denny Bowe, as Plant Sale

*(Continued on page 6)*

## MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

Welcome New Members: Nancy Peterson and Marilyn Kasperbauer



Our membership currently stands at 226. That is a little bit behind last year at this time. Remember that our members are our best resource for acquiring and

recruiting new members. Our next event is the Founder's Day Picnic, September 7<sup>th</sup>, held at the Tomashek farm in Preston, which is always a fun filled day. It is a terrific time to bring along a friend to not only share

in the fun, but to view a beautiful hosta garden and turn them into fellow hostaholics.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in September.

*Mona Keehn*

**SOGHS 2013 Officers**

- **President**  
Kim Greene  
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# Hosta Hot-Spot for the month...

This edition's 'Hosta Hotspot' features an online opportunity. The Hosta Patch, owned Tom Michelitti (pictured below as one of the co-chairs of the 2013 AHS convention) offers many healthy, unique, and desirable hostas.



Not only will your 'cyber visit' to The Hosta Patch allow you to view and purchase some outstanding hostas, but Tom has other resources available to his customers, as well. Check out his site for informative articles and an updated picture directory of the HOTA. (This is an official list of the hostas of the year dating back to 1996's 'star,' H. 'So Sweet'.)

## DISPLAY GARDEN UPDATE

Yikes! The deer did a real number on the hostas in the RCTC display garden over the past month. To counter their continual brows-

ing, we're trialing three different repellents – granular Deer Scram, Liquid Fence spray, and a new product that purports season long control,

Sweeney's Deer Repellent (I found it at Fleet Farm on the recommendation of a friend). My hope is to ward them off for the

*(Continued on page 4)*

## AHS CONVENTION IN REVIEW

What better way to begin the program on the final night of the Milwaukee Wisconsin's 'version' of the American Hosta Society convention (cochairs pictured on the left: Jack Barta and Tom Micheletti) than to have two polka musicians lead us in song that ring out: "Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make my hostas grow, gonna mulch them deep and low, so they thrive in fertile ground. Slug by slug, weed by weed, Boy this garden's got me T'd, All the critters come to feed, on my hosta plants. ..."

Of course this little jingle wasn't the highlight of the 2013 convention for me. Each year I attend, the highlight is vending... oops, I mean the gardens! This year was no exception!

I could rabble here and weave a tale of each of the gardens that would fill five pages in this already packed newsletter but instead, I'll focus on just one, the Dale Sievert moss (bryophytes) garden.

A quick Google search with the keywords, "Sievert moss garden" will give you many links to click on, including: "Creating a Portable Japa-

# FOUNDERS' DAY BONNOC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013

11:00 AM 4:00 PM

Join SOGHS members and guests for a relaxing getaway at

**CAMP CREEK FARM**

**21587 Hwy. 52 So., Preston, MN,**

hosted by Mike and Cindy Tomashek.

Here's what you can *expect*:

**F U N**

Gardens to stroll

**Silent Auction**

(all proceeds to SOGHS) from 1:30:00 pm (bring something to donate and plan to bid :)

PrestonHarmony Bike/Hiking Trail (accessible from our property)

Fishing (\*requires a license) on Camp Creek (accessible from our property)

**Door prizes**

and more!

What to *bring*:

Dish to share/beverage of your choice

(hot sandwich, plates, plastic ware, napkins and water provided by hosts)

Lawn Chairs/Blankets optional

Relaxation

Socialization

Good Humor

Sun Screen/Insect Repellent

\*Umbrella/Jacket (check the weather but don't worry if rain is forecast...the new shed is ready for a big crowd!)

**BRING YOUR FAMILIES KIDS AND PETS WELCOME**

**(PETS MUST BE LEASHED AND KEPT OUTDOORS PLEASE!)**

***PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 3 TO CINDY***

[prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:prestonplants@aol.com)

(507) 2892614 or 2505311

**If you plan to donate to the Silent Auction, please tell us # of items  
so we can be prepared with bid sheets and adequate table space!**

**Popularity Poll:** Got a top ten favorite hostas? How about a top five for minis? The American Hosta Society wants to know. Why? Our recommendations help nonhostaholics catch the 'bug.' The AHS posts these and our passion thrives. Submit your list today! Also, the AHS is constantly looking for article ideas for the Hosta Journal. Feel free to share your ideas!

Mail to the [hosta\\_journal@hotmail.com](mailto:hosta_journal@hotmail.com)

remainder of the growing season so we can replace some of the missing plants without incurring damage right away. Speaking of missing plants, due to the drought last year and our severe spring swings, nearly a fifth of the varieties are no-shows. Additionally, we should add the following varieties to the Hosta of the Year area: H. 'Liberty' (2012 HOTY), 'Rainforest Sunrise' (2013 HOTY), 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' (2014 HOTY), and, to really get a leg up on things, 'Victory' (2015 HOTY).

To make room for new varieties, we should remove a few of the multiple-clump-same-variety (H.

'First Frost' for one) and pot them up for the plant sale next spring. There were a few errors made when the beds were first planted that will be easily corrected, like moving H. 'October Sky' and 'Proud Sentry' to the area featuring Don Dean's introductions, along with a couple other misplaced plants.

Do you have any good ideas for a better way to show off the miniature hostas in the display garden? Currently they are in and around some large rocks on the west end of the pond.

There is a lot of root competition from neighboring trees and the

little hostas are really struggling. Perhaps raising the area with addition of good moisture-retentive soil would help...other ideas are most welcome! Only half of the little ones survived.

My last visit to the display gardens was spent making a short video of the hosta beds and creating a map of each area for future reference. I will fine-tune the map once we fix the planting errors and install the new/replacement plants. Having a map posted in the garden to explain how the plants are grouped by hybridizer or other theme, such as HOTY would be nice for visitors and could be weather-

## AHS CONVENTION PHOTOS



Denny and Sherrie at Saturday's AHS Convention banquet.



Joyce with her leaf entry.



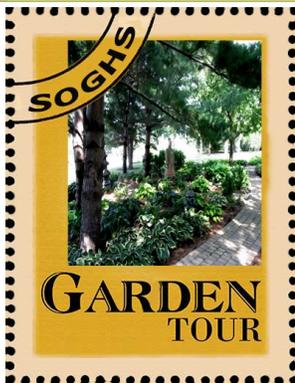
Jan Gerke and AHS Convention entry H. Montana 'Aureomarginata'



AHS Convention Tour: Owner Dave Collura



Jane and garden owner Owen.



## 2013 Garden Tours Had it All... Rain and Cold, Pleasant, Plus Hot and Humid!



The 2013 SOGHS garden tours saw a bit of everything weatherwise, from May's cold and rainy weather to beautiful June days and then July's heat and humidity. But whatever the weather, everyone was in great

spirits as we toured fantastic gardens and found great shopping deals.

The Spring Open House on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Mona and Rick Keehn's was a fun evening, in spite of a definite soggy chill in the air. What their hostas lacked in size was overcome by Rick and Mona's warm hostality as we gathered to enjoy some hosta camaraderie and refreshments.

Our northeast Iowa bus tour on June 8<sup>th</sup> brought 53 eager gardeners to two great gardens and two new shopping spots. At Willowglen Nursery in Decorah, Lee and Lindsay gave us some education on use of willows and garden design tips, as an added bonus to touring their wonderful gardens. In Oelwein, Gary and Tom Whittenbaugh's gorgeous FranMara garden of conifers and rock gardens was definitely a treat to see. The shoppers among us were not disappointed in our stops at In the Country Garden and Gifts in Independ-

ence and K&K Gardens in Hawkeye. Unique and healthy plants filled the cargo space on the bus as well as the one empty seat. Both Josh and Keith's sales staffs were extremely helpful and efficient. The fact that we and another bus arrived at K&K simultaneously didn't faze owner Keith one bit! Everyone graciously invited us back to visit another time, so keep these places in mind if you're ever traveling through northeast Iowa. As the bus headed home toward Rochester, we drew door prize winners, with the following people taking home an extra hosta: Barb Hunt, Jan Gerke (no, I didn't draw this myself), Terry Yockey, Corey Landgren, Peg Hansen, Karen Weaver, Margaret Kirchner, Angela Clements, Norm Olsen, and Sherrie Bowe.

After being postponed from May, our Coulee Carpool Caravan to the La Crosse area happened on Sunday afternoon, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Eight members met at Shopko South, umbrellas in hand (luckily, the day turned out great). We took two cars and headed to Cottage Grove Nursery in West Salem, which was new to everyone but me and Linda Brech. The next stop was Christen Farm Nursery in Onalaska, which also has a great plant selection. After a brief DQ stop, we went to La Crosse to visit Denise Hazen's amazing garden, with many

# Bus Tour 2013



Dave and Denise Cocker shopping their way through the great hostas at K&K Gardens.



Josh and Sue Spece and staff, Country Garden and Gifts in Independence IA



Karen Nolte checks out the gardens.

## Thank you Hosta Friends...

For your expressions of sympathy and donation to Team Vogel in memory of Sandy Tomashek. Team Vogel is a non-profit organization that raises funds for colon cancer research and provides support to families dealing with cancer in the Winona, MN area.

In the weeks prior to her death, Sandy took great comfort in watching her hostas grow from her bed in front of the picture window. At her request, her granddaughters and I moved the red petioled hostas to a raised bed in the front yard so she could more easily appreciate them and also re-grouped her "angel" hostas to a bed along the house where the urn containing her ashes will rest. Sandy's sisters and husband all helped weed and mulch the hosta beds and Sandy was very happy to see them in good shape because she also requested a family picnic over the Fourth of July weekend (held on July 6) and wanted the gardens to look good. Everyone had time alone with her that day to reminisce, pray, read or just talk to her. While she was not conscious, we know she could hear us. She passed away in the wee hours of the following morning.

Sandy cherished the friends she made through her association with the Friendship Plant and especially enjoyed attending conventions and seeing the fabulous gardens around the region and country. She volunteered to clerk at Hosta Shows and found the judging process to be very interesting and educational. She always made the most of attending conventions by taking extra days to explore the host city's attractions, something I've always wanted to do but fail miserably at scheduling extra time for.

We can all benefit from a slower pace and a better appreciation of our gardens that we've worked so hard to create. Sandy exemplified the importance of taking time for family first, but also taking time to appreciate what is all around you – wherever you are. Be present in your relationships. Soak up your surroundings. Count your blessings, not your hostas.

In the spirit of the Friendship Plant, Cindy

P.S. If you know of a SOGHS member or loved one of a member that has passed away, PLEASE be sure to let someone on the Board know so we can acknowledge their loss and extend our condolences...it means so much to know others care.



Director, and I, as president, will continue our positions for one more term unless someone is willing to step forward for these positions. Denny has asked for some help though. He needs someone to help with organizing and executing the plant digs to get plants ready for the plant sale.

All of the other board positions that are up for election need to have someone step forward to fill them. We all know that any organization is only as good as its volunteers. This is a great oppor-

tunity and is your chance to help shape the future of SOGHS. I have spoken with many of you and I know there is a lot of talent within our membership. Please step forward and add your name to the ballot for this fall's election of these board positions.

In addition to these elected positions, Mona Keehn, our Membership Director, would like some assistance in helping with advertising. Furthermore, if you're looking to help with garden maintenance, check out Cindy's

article on the RCTC Display Gardens.

Unfortunately, I will be on a business trip and will miss the Founder's Day picnic. I have to say this is one of the most fun events of the year. Cindy and Mike have such a beautiful setting and the food and camaraderie is outstanding. I will miss you all, enjoy!

*Kim Greene*

nese Moss Garden“ (a featured interview on the “Wisconsin Gardener” with host, Shelley Ryan.) This can be viewed on wpt.org and aired on March 3 2013:

<http://wpt2.org/gardener/transcript.cfm?id=2198>: the American Hosta Society Facebook page with photos of but not limited to Dale’s Hosta and moss filled gardens

<http://pinterest.com/annmunson/mossgardens/> ; random photos of Dale’s gardens on

<http://www.cheeseheadgardening.com/2013/06/sievertsmossgarden.html> and many more.

None of these sites compare to being there in person. Walking through the Sieverts’ garden opened my eyes to new possibilities in gardening. Although, a fascination with mosses did not begin at this year’s convention. Along paths, in parking lots, near the foundation of my neighbors yard, I have found ‘unwanted’ crops of moss that I have harvested over the years. I’ve tried to reestablish them in my yard, working hard to place them in conditions similar to where they were found. Even last night, my neighbor was working to eliminate anything but grass and three spireas in his yard while I was eyeing his sun loving moss on his back dirt pile that I could add to my minimal collection. (He didn’t spray it so I will be back to ask for a bit of it.)

Visiting with Dale about his massive collection, I realized that my harvested and planted patches need very little from me to survive: acid soil (lower than 6.5%), shading (generally speaking), sufficient moisture (although periods of dormancy during drought is tolerated), and humidity.

For the most part, I have satisfied the needs of my finds. Humidity is part of Minnesota and shade comes with my piece of earth. Acidity is something I have to check. Most of my moss has thrived; some of it hasn’t. Acidity might be the issue. Dale informed us (and it is restated in the wpt.org clip) that rainwater is all he uses to water his moss. Treated water will eventually kill the tender mosses and should be avoided. Actually, with his massive collection, he doesn’t water. He lets nature take it course and unless there is an extreme drought, he doesn’t water his mosses.

I am all about ground cover and have very little need for wood mulch. This is one more way to accomplish my goal of ‘living mulch’ without creating ‘a jungle out there’ like I have in the past. To help you determine is moss is for you, I have found some online resources for you to explore. Finding out requirements, availability, and other information about moss that will grow in our area will help you determine if you are ready to add a different kind of companion plant to your hosta beds. I know I am ready to add more! <http://www.mossacres.com> , <http://www.thegardenhelper.com/mosscare.html> . <http://www.mossandstonegardens.com/blog/dishgardens/> , <http://mountainmoss.com/>

Can you believe there is even a society for moss... aholics? <http://iabbryologistswebsite.blogspot.com/>

*Susy Olsen, SOGHs Newsletter Editor/ Master Gardener Intern*



## October 3 Speaker

### General Meeting

We are pleased to inform you that our speaker for the October 3 General Meeting is sure to be one that you will want to invite a friend or three!

Glenn Herold, of Watertown, Wisconsin, (currently living in Cedarburg, WI), comes to us with a BS from the University of Wisconsin - Madison (Biology, Education) - 1974 and a MS from University of Wisconsin - Madison (Horticulture) - 1979. He served as the Professor of Horticulture and Head Cross Country Coach, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL - 1979 to 2011.

As a member of the American Hosta Society, American Conifer Society, and the Maple Society he is very prepared to present to our group on the topic of "Trees for the Hosta Garden."

During his involvement with the above mentioned societies, he has served as President of Central Illinois Hosta Society, 1995-96; Vice President of the American Conifer Society - Central Region, 2001-03; Secretary of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2009- 2011; and

hosta varieties and lots of other perennials plus shrubs and trees (not to mention refreshments), and the Riverside International Friendship Garden. Our tour of the riverside garden was made even better by the sounds of an evening concert in the park.

With the member garden tour on June 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> being cancelled due to the low number of volunteer gardens, we toured five gardens in July. The July 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> tour featured the gardens of Kerin Marek, Dave and Cheryl Moertel, Ron and Connie Neuman, Jake and Terrie Jacobson, and yours truly with my husband, Gordy Haubenschild. Yes, both evenings were hot and humid but a good number of people ignored the weather and visited the gardens, with about 40 the first night and 50 or so the

President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, 2011 to present.

As the founder of the Illinois Central College Arboretum, he has a keen interest in dwarf conifers, woodland wildflowers, small maples, and (of course), hostas.

Here is a description of the October presentation. Don't miss it!

#### Trees for the Hosta Garden

Not every tree is a great companion and shade producer for your hosta garden. In this talk we will explore what characteristics are desirable for hosta garden trees and how their natural sites may give clues to their desirability. We'll also investigate the anatomy of herbaceous monocots (hostas!) and deciduous dicots (trees) and how their growth may or may not interfere with each other. Finally, we will make recommendations for trees to add to your own yards.



next evening. I think the two evening format worked nicely, but I would love to hear what you think. Many thanks to everyone who hosted your garden on this member tour! Yes, I will be the first to admit that it is work, but it is also very heartwarming to hear how appreciative everyone who visits the gardens is for a chance to enjoy the results. And once the tours are done, the task of keeping everything looking nice is so much easier!

Thank you to everyone who provided kind words, support, and feedback to me regarding these garden tours done this year. It is a lot of fun for me and I am very glad that those of you who could make them had fun, too.

Looking toward 2014, I am starting to work on pos-

# Our gracious July Garden Tour Hosts!



Kerin Marek and the painting done of her garden during the RG&FC tour



Terrie and Jake Jacobson their garden.



Ron and Connie Neuman in their yard



Jan Gerke and Gordy Haubenschild in their garden.

Thank you  
for opening  
your gardens  
to us!



Dave and Cheryl Moertel in their garden

sible garden tour stops. I haven't decided yet where we will go on our bus tour, but I am thinking someplace north. Also, I am hoping to have at least one and maybe two carpool tours. We will also plan to have member garden tours in both June and July. I am starting to line those up now, so let me know if you want to join in on the fun of hosting a bunch of your wonderful SOGHS friends as they tour your gardens. I would love to hear your suggestions or ideas on possible changes on any of our tour activities.

One last thing...the idea mentioned in the June newsletter of an overnight tour is tempting, but I would really like to know what you think about it and whether you would consider going. Depending on the group going, we could tailor it to your interests and visit gardens or nurseries too far for a normal 11 or 12 hour bus trip. If we were to plan a

more distant tour, when (month, days of week) would you prefer that we do it? Please send me any and all feedback for use in future planning.

As the garden season winds down, enjoy the warm summer days and have fun dreaming and planning for next year's garden adventures.

Thanks again, everyone, for your support in the 2013 garden touring year. Let's look forward to more fun touring times in 2014!

*Jan Gerke,*

(507)2597096, [Janice.gerke@gmail.com](mailto:Janice.gerke@gmail.com)

## SCRATCH AND DENT SALE

Here is the list of special plants Bob Solberg at Green Hill farm is offering us at really special prices. We can't go wrong with Bob's plants. The root systems are amazing. You will be a believer once you see them. (See larger pictures online.)



**Potomac Glory** (*R. Whitmore 2002*) (Sport of 'Potomac Pride') - Large, (20" X 46") It is very rare to find a hosta leaf with a light green center and a wide dark green margin but this hosta has both. It retains all the vigor and great substance of 'Potomac Pride' and is easy to grow. Spidery lavender flowers in June and July. Best high-lighted in morning sun.



**Peach Salsa** (*Solberg 2013*) (*H. clausa normalis F2 seedling X 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie'*) **Medium, (12" X 20")** This bright yellow hosta has puckered leaves that are almost translucent, it glows! It is also a showoff with its bright red, not purple, petioles and scapes. Don't cut the flowers off this one. A sibling of my 'Smiley Face' and 'Mango Salsa', this one is a dappled shade plant that will brighten up any garden path.



**Jetstream** (*D. & M. Beilstein 2013*) (*Seedling of H. yingeri OP seedling*) **Medium to Large, (26" X 40")** I am a sucker for a waxy blue hosta. I also like hostas that make perfect clumps, with all their leaves neatly arranged in just the right place. This medium-sized hosta, with the help of a little morning sun, is the perfect combination of both. A seedling of Doug Beilstein, plant this one next to 'June' or better yet 'Justine'.



**Honey Pie** (*Solberg 2012*) (*'September Sun' X H. plantaginea*) **Large, (18" X 40")** This may have been my favorite hosta this summer. Despite all the heat, boy did it grow. The honey colored leaves pucker with age and fragrant flowers follow in late summer. It is a large hosta, a cross of 'September Sun' and *H. plantaginea*, having the best characteristics of both parents. Give this one a little extra sun also.



**Blue Legend** (*K. Anderson*) ( ) **Large, (28" X 60" or larger)** Most very large blue hostas are well, not very blue. 'Blue Legend' is an exception. It is a very large hosta with very waxy blue leaves that resemble *H. montana* and its strong venation. It has many light lavender flowers in June. See how big you can grow this one from Minnesota. (note the hybridizer was a Minnesota legend)

### Its time for the 2013 Extravaganza!

This is a onetime event and you will not see this price for a couple years. Only after these plants have been out on the market for several years will the price come down to this level.

### Hosta SCRATCH AND DENT 2013 ORDER FORM

	One Plant of each variety only per membership \$12.00 per hosta	Make Checks Payable to SOGHS Send to: Jeanne Truestedt, 12 Elmwood Dr. NE, Pine Island, MN 55963 <b>Plant orders MUST be in by August 28, 2013</b> Your plants will arrive in early September, just in time for fall planting!
Potomac Glory		
Peach Salsa		
Jetstream		
Honey Pie		
Blue Legend		
All five Hosta - \$60		
TOTAL		

**Plant pick up: When: Sunday, September 8 at Jeanne's. Time: 1-5pm**

If you can not pick up on this date send a friend to pick up for you  
 or Jeanne will claim your plants for her garden. :)

**Five volunteers are needed to help with plants on September 8.**

**Call Jeanne if you would like to help. Phone 356-8934**

Have a great fall and Happy Hosta Planting!

Susy Olsen  
 SOGHS Newsletter Editor  
 1427 15th Ave  
 Rochester, MN 55901  
 5072814469



Only in Milwaukee during a national convention can you randomly end up following a pick-up with this license plate.  
 (Yep, it's Bob and Nancy Solberg)

## H. 'Zounds'



### SOGHS 2013 Calendar of Events

August 28th	Deadline for Scratch and Dent Orders
September 7	Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction
September 8	Scratch and Dent Pick-up at Jeanne Truestedt 1-5pm
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