

Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota



The Hosta Leaf

July 2012 Convention Edition Volume 7 Issue 4 special

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Welcome from the SOGHS President

Greetings Fellow Hostaholics!!

Our Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota is ecstatic to be hosting the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention with 'Operation Hosta.' We're hoping you will get the proper 'medicine' at the convention to help cure our shared addiction of our love for hostas. A lot of work has gone into planning the event to make sure everything runs smoothly and you have a fantastic time!

This newsletter provides details we hope you'll find valuable. We have eight additional gardens that are part of the optional garden tour. In addition, the official MRHS gardens that are part of the Saturday garden tours will also be available for additional viewing. The tours on Sunday start at 9:00 AM and go through 2:00 PM.



Note the raffle prize pictures scattered throughout this newsletter, giving you a sampling of the great items you can win. Prizes range from books, to container gardens, to dining experiences, to jewelry, and of course hostas, including a tower of ten that will be part of the raffle. You're sure to find multiple items of interest so you won't want to miss out!

Looking forward to a great convention and the opportunity to meet many new hosta friends and get caught up with hostaholics from past conventions!!

Kim Greene, SOGHS President

IMPORTANT

Tours for Sunday are listed inside. Be sure to visit with a volunteer in a lab coat if you want to visit numerous gardens using the most efficient route. SOGHS members, this is a special tour edition for you, as well.

Welcome from our Convention Chairs

Welcome to Rochester, Minnesota, aka Med-City! We've been planning, preparing and primping our gardens in anticipation of your arrival. We hope your visit includes warm reunions with hosta friends from around Region 5 and beyond plus the making of some new friendships as we gather for some very special group therapy! 'Operation Hosta' is ready to treat your hosta addiction with liberal doses of hosta education, hosta purchasing opportunities, and hosta viewing. Be sure to wrap up your day with a final dose of hosta friendship in the hostatality suite. Beware of that crazy 'June,' though – you never know where she may pop up!

'Operation Hosta' Co-Chairs, Cindy Tomashek and June Stoehr

Convention Raffle Prize and Welcome Bag Donors Acknowledged: Thank you goes out to these businesses and individuals who donated items for the convention raffle and the welcome bag.

- **AgStar** "Providing financial services for agriculture and rural America" www.agstar.com
- **Afton Press** "Afton Press is a non-for-profit publisher of exceptional books" www.aftonpress.com
- **Cold Stone Creamery** "The Ultimate Ice Cream Experience" Rochester, MN; www.coldstonecreamery.com
- **Culligan of Rochester** "Better Water. Pure and Simple." www.culliganwaterexperts.com
- **Donahue's Greenhouse** "Clematis Specialists" Faribault, MN; www.donahuesgreenhouse.com
- **Funkie Gardens** "Unique Plants, Unique Place" Marine on St. Croix, MN; www.funkiegardens.com
- **Garten Marketplatz** "Come as guests, leave as friends." Byron, MN; www.gmarketplatz.com
- **Greenhouse Plants** "Growing for you since 1978" Rochester, MN; www.greenwood-plants.com
- **Highland Nursery** "Making the Most of Each Season" West St. Paul, MN; www.thehighlandnursery.com
- **Jim Whiting's Garden Center & Nursery** "Landscape Design, Garden Tips, Annuals, Perennials" Rochester, MN & Lake City, MN; www.jimwhitingnursery.com
- **John Hardee's Bar-B-Q** "The Home of Ture Southern Bar-B-Q" Rochester, MN; www.johnhardysbbq.com
- **Kincaid Gardens** "It's not just another plant marker" www.kincaidgardens.com
- **Klehm's Song Sparrow** "Fine mail-order plants" Avalon, WI; www.songsparrow.com
- **Monterey Lawn and Garden** "Products that work" www.montereylawnngarden.com
- **Perennial Outfitters**, 56315 416th Ave. Mazeppa MN, 55956
- **Pork & Plants LLC** "Envious Neighbors? You can grow that!" 16378 County Rd 114, Altura, MN; www.porkandplants.com
- **ProVital** "Revitalize your lawn, flowers, and plants today!" www.provitalearth.com
- **Rochester Convention and Visitors Bureau** www.rochestercvb.org
- **Rochester Magazine** www.rochestermagazine.com
- **Rustic Gardens** "Stay True to your Roots" Hastings, MN; www.rusticgardens.net
- **Sargent's Nursery** "Your Garden, Our Passion" Rochester, MN; www.sargentsgardens.com
- **Savory's Gardens** "Hosta Specialists Hybridizers" Edina, MN; www.sarvorysgardens.com
- **Scotts Miracle Gro** "Great Container Plants Start with Great Soil" www.scotts.com
- **Smith Brothers' Landing** "Decorative Metalwork for Your Garden" Pepin, WI; www.pepinsmith.com
- **SOGHS** www.soghs.org
- **Stockholm Gardens** "Stockholm Gardens is a plant nursery specializing in perennials, herbs, and landscaping" Stockholm, WI; www.stockholmgardens.com
- **Tangletown Gardens, LLC** "The absolute urban garden center experience" Minneapolis, MN; www.tangletowngardens.com
- **Viola Nursery and Greenhouse** "A short drive in the country, but a long way from ordinary!" Viola, MN; www.violanursery.com
- **Wade and Gatton Nurseries** "American Hostas, Daylilies & Perennials, Bellville, OH; www.wadeandgattonnurseries.com
- **Zzest Market & Café**: "Market by day, Restaurant by night" Just east of the convention site at 1190 16th St SW # 600, Rochester, MN 55902; zzestmarket.com

Arts and Authors:

- **Andrea Sanders**, Sanders Portrait Art, www.sandersportrait.com
- **Michael Shadrack**, author, hosta expert, photographer, AHS President
- **Larry Tucker**, author, hosta expert

Not only have many worked hard to fill the welcome bag and raffle full of

great items, as this goes to press, more donations are still being gathered. Thanks to all for your help and for your generosity!

SOGH Members

- Mary Allen
- Doris Amundson
- Denny Bowe
- Sherri Bowe
- Linda Brech
- Pat Ferguson
- Jan Gerke
- Kim Greene
- Kristal Hust
- Margaret Kirchner
- Sue Martino
- Susan McRoberts
- Diane Miller
- Dianna Nash
- Deanna Nash
- Karen Nolte
- Bonnie Schilling
- Pam Schmidt
- Larry Schmidt
- Linda Thompson

Please respond to these generous donors with your patronage. SOGHS is grateful for their role in the success of 'Operation Hosta!'



2012 MRHS Convention

Optional Open Gardens

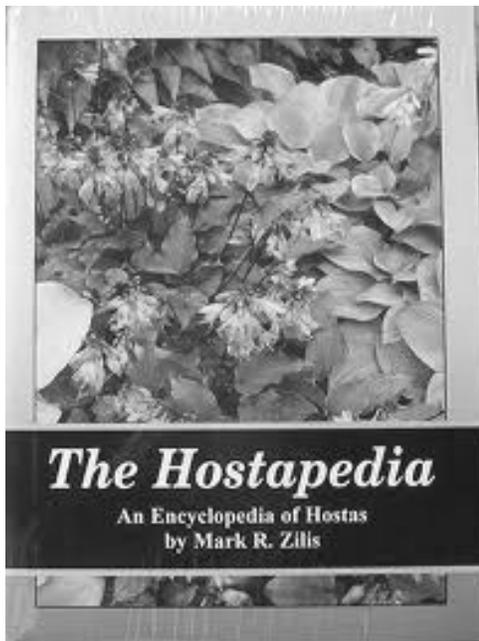
The following eight gardens are open from 9:00am to 2:00pm on Sunday, July 15th for your touring pleasure. See directions and descriptions below. Also, directions to the five gardens toured on Saturday are included as they are again open Sunday if you want to spend more time in them. Please make restroom stops between gardens. As you see, all directions are given from the starting place of the convention center, the Ramada Inn, 1517 16th St SW, Rochester, MN, so you can decide which gardens you want to visit. Even so, the optional gardens are organized in such a way that you will be able to see them all in order without too much backtracking. Bring these directions to a volunteer if you need help



Raffle Prize # 34

Raffle Prize # 25 & 33

fine tuning your travel plans if this is your intent.



Jane and John Yunginger, 1760 Walden Lane SW, Rochester, 507-289-3460

Directions: (1.1 miles northwest of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Go north on Hwy 52 to the 6th St SW exit. Go west over the bridge then turn south on the west frontage road (it will be the second left, the first left is the entrance ramp to Hwy 52). Turn right onto Skyline Dr. SW. Go one block, turn right onto Walden Ln SW. We are at the corner of 18th Ave and Walden Ln SW. If coming from the north on Hwy 52, take the 2nd St exit, proceed to 6th St, cross 6th St onto the west frontage road and follow the preceding directions.

Description: The arrangement of the buildings on the partially wooded lot allows the "garden rooms" concept. Interest in the garden beds is created by using different textures,

variegated plants and plants with gold leaves. The bubbling rock is a favorite of both birds and humans. The property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Four elements are required for certification: food (preferably provided by plants, i.e. nuts, fruit, nectar), water, cover (evergreens, brush pile), and a place to raise young. In addition to over 200 hosta varieties, the shade garden has many varieties of ferns, hellebores, heucheras, and wildflowers. There are also full sun gardens containing rudbeckia, phlox, monarda, clematis, Joe Pye, grasses, perennial geranium, sedum, nepeta, salvia, lamb's ear, asters, helianthus, hollyhock, hibiscus, and herbs.

Raffle Prize # 11 is made by a SOGHS member.



Pat and Scott Heck, 2153 Haralson Lane SW, Rochester, 507-259-9416

Raffle Prize # 17

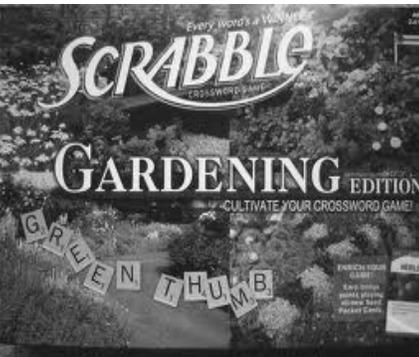
Directions: (2.3 miles south of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to South Broadway. Turn right on South Broadway and drive to 20th St SW (by the Kwik Trip). Take a right on 20th St SW. Take a left on 5th Ave SW. Take the first right which is Apple Ridge Blvd. Take the 2nd left which is Haralson Lane. We are the first house on the right.

Description: Nestled in the middle of town, our garden proves that you can do a lot of gardening in a small space. Our once sunny garden has changed to a mostly shade garden as the trees have matured. This caused us to change the plants that we have had in our garden over the past 10 years. It now boasts over 150 different varieties of hosta. Some were planted 15 years ago, others in just the last few years. There are also other shade plants including several varieties of heuchera, ferns and astilbe. We still have some sunlight that keeps some hardy climbing roses blooming and there are several clematis "Arabella" that clamber through the hostas. Loving the sound of water in our garden, we have two fountains and a small pond.



Cindy and Mike Tomashek, 1288 Wicklow Lane SW, Rochester, 507-289-2614

Directions: (3.3 miles south of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east about 0.3 mile to Mayowood Road SW, turn right (South) and stay on Mayowood Rd (about 0.7 mile) until just after the Hwy 52 overpass, turn left onto 18th Ave SW; stay on 18th Ave SW about 1.5 mile to 32nd St. SW (entrance to Greystone and Echo Ridge), turn left (east), go one block, turn left onto Greystone Lane, stay on Greystone Lane about 0.3 mile to Wicklow Lane, turn left onto Wicklow; 1288 is the 4th house on the right (first one past the valley).



Raffle Prize #18

Description: Established in 2003, Wildwood on Wicklow sits on a steeply sloping lot next to an open valley. This near-acre is nestled under White and Red Oaks, Black Cherry, White Ash, Hackberry and Basswood, and the gardens are bursting with over 600 varieties of Hosta, plus Ferns, Heuchera, Hemerocallis, Liliium, Monarda, Tricyrtis, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Ligularias, Clematis, ornamental grasses and a host of natives (Baneberry, Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild geranium, blue-eyed grass, native sedges, Viburnum, May Apple, Rue Anemone, Meadow Rue and more) which are alternately encouraged and restrained as they weave their way through the woodland gardens. Areas near the house are tamer than the areas below the huge limestone retaining wall that terraces the areas west and south of the house. Three bridges cross the ravine giving access

to the crest beyond where a fire pit and Adirondack chairs offer a respite from the climb. The central stairs of limestone and field stone were installed in Spring 2007; steps to the east are carved into the slope and offer a softer route. A footpath along the base of the retaining wall leads to other paths accessing the gardens from the west. Last year the back and side yards were completely enclosed with electric fencing to keep the burgeoning deer population at bay and it is working beautifully! *If you have physical limitations, please view the gardens from the backyard or the deck where you can enjoy the sounds of the small backyard pond. Above all, take your time and watch your step on the slopes.*

Sherrie and Denny Bowe, 5724 Salem Rd Ct SW, Rochester, 507-282-7032, cell 507-421-1362

Directions: (3.9 miles south of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, turn right on 16th St. SW to Salem Rd SW. Go west (left) on Salem Road SW, which is also County Road 22 (CR22) for 1.9 miles. When the road splits, turn left to stay on Salem Road SW for 2.4 miles and turn left on Salem Road Ct SW. The Bowe's are on the right at the end of the road.

Description: Although this farm has been in Sherrie's family for many generations, Sherrie and Denny moved into the old farmhouse just six years ago. They remodeled the house and began transforming the wooded hillside with many flower gardens, water features, and areas to relax and enjoy the beauty. Look for delightful theme gardens with angels, fairies, and "creatures". There's a blue flower garden, Denny's specialty garden of small evergreens, and many more gardens for you to explore. Look for the old smokehouse turned into a potting shed. On the old granary foundation is the base for the greenhouse and chicken house.

Using a variety of sturdy feed bags, SOGHS member, Betty Olsen, has donated six exceptional bags for the raffle



There will be at least three unique container gardens in the raffle!



Karen and Paul Koeller, 425 25th St NW, Rochester, 507-282-0759

Directions: (4.7 miles north of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Driving north on Hwy 52, take the exit for Elton Hills Drive, then turn left onto 4th Ave NW. Alternatively, if you're coming from Broadway, turn left on Elton Hills Drive, then turn right onto 4th Ave NW. Take the first left off 4th Ave onto 25th St NW. Paul and Karen's house is the gray colonial at the very top of the cul-de-sac. Parking is limited so carpooling is appreciated.

Description: Expect to be surprised by finding a one acre city lot in the middle of the Elton Hills

neighborhood. The Koeller gardens contain several hundred hostas with about 100 unique varieties. They also have a variety of other perennials including numerous daylilies, Asiatic lilies, clematis, endless summer hydrangea and many more. In addition there is a vegetable garden, a small pond with waterfall, and a pool area.

Jean and Gerry Meyer, 10236 95th Ave NW, Pine Island, 507-356-4830

Directions: (16 miles north of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Go north on Hwy 52 from Rochester about 4.3 miles north past the exit for 55th St NW. Take exit 64, turn left (west) at the exit onto Hwy 12 West (100th St). Go 3.6 miles on Cty 12 to Cty 3. Turn right (north) on Cty 3. Go 1.4 miles on Cty 3 (past Cty 105) to 105th St. Turn left on 105th St to 95th Ave. Turn left on 95th Ave, go straight up the hill 0.2 miles to the Turkey Run Hostas sign.

Description: Their hillside woodland garden sprawls across the slopes of a basswood/maple/oak wooded acreage. Informal in style, paths and steps weave down and across the slopes. Benches and sitting areas are located throughout the garden. There are over 1000 different hostas grown both in "collector beds" and in mass plantings. Beds featuring small and mini hostas are recent additions. Native wild flowers such as trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, solomon's seal, false solomon's seal, baneberry, cohosh, maidenhair and woodland ferns have been left where naturally occurring. Astilbes, cimicifugas, ligularias, and ferns are also used extensively. Asiatic and Martagon lilies and daylilies have been added to areas receiving a little

more light. The Meyer's are experimenting with clematis in a number of locations. Gargoyles and woodland creatures add some whimsy. Bird houses are used throughout bringing music to the garden. Come relax and enjoy the hostas in their natural setting. More information is available on their website

www.turkeyrunhostas.com

Rhonda and Pat McNeilus, 20731 625th St, Dodge Center, 507-374-2618

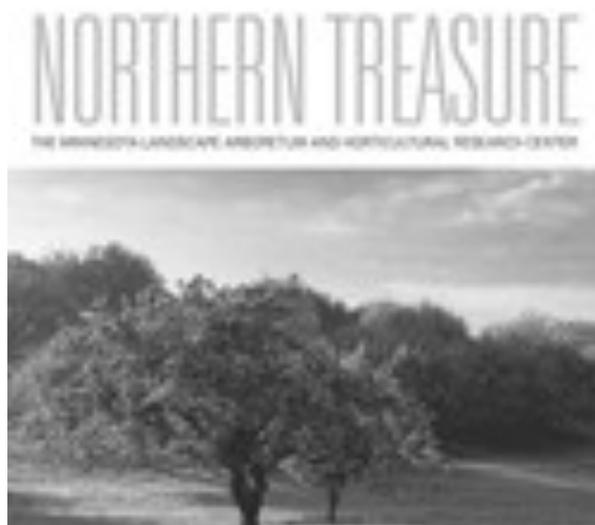
Directions: (22.3 miles west of Ramada Inn) Coming from the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Driving north on Hwy 52, take the exit for Hwy 14 West. Drive approximately 16 miles on Hwy 14 west, then take the 1st exit for Dodge Center. Going south, you will pass a grocery store and cross the highway. At that point, the road becomes 200th Ave. Go 1 mile to 625th St. Turn right (west) and go about 0.7 mile to the McNeilus home on the right.

Description: Drive through the entrance lined with commanding evergreens and suddenly "Endless Gardens" appears, the fantastic creation of Rhonda and Pat McNeilus with the help of designer Jeff Rosberg of Sargent's Gardens. Purchased in 1982, the 10-acre property then had an old farmhouse, cornfield and swampy pasture. A visit to Shady Oaks Nursery in Waseca sparked Rhonda's ongoing love affair with hostas. Over the years, one garden after another was added and now there are the pink and white peony garden, the wall garden, the white garden, the bog, the koi pond garden, the stream garden, the china garden, the dry creek garden, the mound garden, the vegetable garden, the forest garden, the long garden, the miniature garden, the small pond garden, and the orchard. No wonder the "summer garden kids" christened it "Endless Gardens". Raised island beds display incredible beauty. Huge colorful koi follow visitors strolling along the pond, hoping for a tasty treat. A stone bridge leads garden visitors to yet another fascinating surprise. Interesting trees and shrubs dot the landscape. Even the vegetable garden is unique. Add in the lovely freshness of brightly colored annuals and without a doubt this is a wonderful display of endless gardens.

Joan Harris-Meyer and Lloyd Meyer, 402 Bergman Dr, Mantorville, 507-635-5183

Directions: (19.8 miles west of Ramada Inn) From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. From Hwy 52 take Hwy 14 west to Kasson. Go approximately 13 miles and exit on Hwy 57. Passing through Kasson, drive 2 miles more to Mantorville. Turn right at the Hubbell House onto 5th Street. Drive 0.5 mile to Bergman Drive. Turn right on Bergman Drive. We are the third house on the left.

Afton Press, Afton MN, donated two exceptional books for the raffle



Description: Come and enjoy a woodland stroll through our hosta gardens, which are eight years old. We have approximately 300 varieties of hostas, plus many different companion plants: bottle rockets, cranesbill, meadow rue, Jacob's ladder, solomon's seal, Wisconsin prairie flower, coral bells, foam flowers, Lenten roses, brunneras, sedum, ferns, jack-in-the-pulpits, colombine, bleeding hearts, Asiatic lilies, blue cohosh, astilbes, shrub roses, tree roses, Pedula weeping spruce, and wistera. In addition, there is a woodland fountain and a Japanese fountain and multiple Japanese statuaries. Visit our "Hosta Haus" for light refreshments following your tour.

Raffle winners will enjoy this long standing favorite Rochester restaurant.



Official 2012 MRHS Convention Tour Gardens

SOGHS members, it is time to feast your eyes on these anticipated gardens. Convention Attendees, we know you enjoyed your first visit, so feel free to revisit these gardens a second time, if you wish!

Mona and Rick Keehn, 1635 Chippewa Dr NW, Rochester, 507-288-3511

Directions: From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Traveling north on Hwy 52, take the 55th St. NW exit. Then turn right (east). At the 18th Ave stoplight, take a left and travel approximately 2 miles. Chippewa Drive is a right hand turn. We are the third house on the left.

Description: The Keehn gardens cover a shady lot just over two acres in size, providing Mona and Rick with an enjoyable shared hobby as they plan, shop for, and work together in the gardens. What started as a garden of about ten common hosta varieties changed six years ago when Mona was invited to a friend's 'garden party'. She was amazed at all the names of the hostas she saw in various themed gardens...like gardens for the months of the year, Star Trek, and a fairy garden of minis. She knew immediately what she wanted to grow in their woodland gardens. Mona and Rick now have almost 300 hosta varieties in their gardens. Most of the gardens were added in the last six years. When they built their pond, they brought in extra rock to use as outcroppings, so as you wander the cobblestone paths through the gardens you will see various rock groupings scattered among the plants to provide hard-scape interest. Cobblestone paths were added over a four year period, making for a pleasant stroll through their well-designed gardens.

Tim Farnham and Kurt Johnson, 324 NW King's Park Rd, Oronoco, 507-282-4782

Directions: From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Go north on Hwy 52 to Oronoco exit 64 (CR-12/CR-112). Turn right onto 100th St NW/CR-112 and proceed east for 1.9 miles. Turn left onto 18th Avenue NW for 0.2 mi. Turn right onto 102 Street NW for 0.3 mi, left onto 14th Avenue NW for 0.2 mi. Take the next right for 0.7 mi. End at 324 King's Park Rd (brown cabin). There is parking along the road. There will be signs for parking.

Description: When their property was purchased in 1989, there was only grass and native vegetation. Kurt decided to remove the grass and create terraces, opening spaces for their gardens. The roadside

garden is surrounded by a double stone wall about 30 inches high planted with honeysuckle. The cottage garden is comprised of raised beds planted primarily with hostas, which they have been collecting for 20-25 years. There are over 1000 varieties of every type of hosta from giants to minis. Ornamental trees, shrubs, and many other perennials are scattered around the garden to complement the overall design. Ample seating around a three tiered fish pond in the center of the garden area provides a relaxing destination to sit for a minute and just enjoy the surroundings. The hillside leading down from their cottage to the river below is terraced with limestone retaining walls, making room for more gardens. Sitting areas can be found throughout. Relax in the grotto as a respite from the day's heat or to seek shelter from a shower. The riverside gardens contain many steps. If you wish to stay on level ground, they can also be seen from the cottage.

Kim Greene and George Eckman, 307 12th Lane SW, Oronoco, 507-367-2218, cell 507-254-9353

Directions: From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Go north on Hwy 52 to Oronoco Exit 64 (County 12/112 West). Turn left and go over Hwy 52. Turn right on 100th Street. Turn left on West Center St. Turn left on 12th Lane SW. Follow curve to house on right side of road.

Description: Kim and George's 6 acre lot is mostly wooded. At first there were a few hostas along the front of the house, then a hosta garden was put in after visiting Shady Oaks Nursery in the mid 1990's. Splitting hostas and the creation of hosta borders followed. Membership in SOGHS as of 2007 provided the catalyst for growth of their hosta collection. Active in their gardens for a number of

Expect to see hostas in the raffle. A tower of ten will be a premier prize.



years, they kicked it up a notch in the Fall of 2008 when they decided to add a large pond to their landscape design. They dug and built the 6000 gallon pond by hand along with the two bogs and overflow pond that provide natural filtration for the pond system. Flagstone paths and a patio were added in the Spring of 2009, along with a fire pit. The flagstone paths twist and wind through the gardens that surround the large pond plus a 300 gallon formal pond with a two-tier fountain (installed in 1994). Numerous shade gardens host about 300 different varieties of hostas. Multiple drifts showcase how spectacular hostas look when they are all blooming at the same time. There are five mini-hosta gardens to enjoy plus a number of varieties of ferns. Metal artwork is scattered among the gardens to provide unique focal points. New gardens are added regularly, so the landscape is always changing. In addition to shade gardens, there is a vegetable garden, a wildflower garden, and several full sun gardens. There are over 20 varieties of clematis and numerous conifers and ornamental evergreens. Benches scattered throughout the gardens offer resting places.

Jeanne and Horst Truestedt, 12 Elmwood Dr NE, Pine Island, 507-356-8934

Directions: From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east to Hwy 52 North. Go north on Hwy 52 to the Pine Island exit. At the top of the overpass, turn right on Cty 11, and drive approximately 0.3 of a mile to Woodland. Turn right on Woodland and proceed up the hill. As hill descends, the road turns to the right around the four large posts in front of our home. Look for a brown ranch colonial with a barn shaped garage out back and extensive gardens.

Description: Jeanne and Horst Truestedt assumed stewardship of their one acre plus piece of the planet in 1975. Although they have been gardening since 1967, this garden was started in 1977. It is situated atop a hill which was originally covered with ancient oaks, huge elms, and a lush woods. But times and seasons changed things: a three year assignment in Germany, Dutch elm disease and straight line winds thinned out the trees, wiped out the manicured borders, and opened up previously unexposed spaces filled with thistles, poison oak and ivy, barbed wire and construction debris. In 1985 the garden became a top priority. The basic design for what exists today was in place by 1989, before they were involved in a serious car accident. A sewer and water project in 2008 provided the unique landscape art that now anchors and ties everything in the Truestedt gardens together. The boulders and rocks were once buried deep in their front yard where the glacier had deposited them. Exotic trees and unique plant varieties provide the design backbone, with over 400 hosta varieties scattered among them. The boulders plus constant recycling of garden waste into mulch make it possible to grow the unique varieties in this zone 4 climate.

Mary and Vince Herring, 5500 Highway 63 South, Rochester, 507-282-1902

Directions: From the Ramada, take 16th St. SW heading east and take an immediate right onto Hwy 52 South. Take the Highway 63 (same as Broadway) exit off Hwy 52 and go south (right). The Herring's are located 0.5 mile south of the 48th Street interchange. Coming from the south, their driveway is the next right just past Cycle City. The driveway is marked by two pillars and ten American flags.

Description: Vince and Mary Herring have gardened at their 21 acres for 33 years. Their gardens include fruits, vegetables, annuals, and perennials, with an extensive collection of hostas (400+ varieties). Mary also collects coleus (300+ varieties) and she starts 2000+ plants from cuttings and hundreds from seed each year. Their gardens include a swimming pond (9 1/2 feet deep with an 8 foot waterfall), three water lily ponds, two bogs with connecting streams and other water features. The highlight of the garden is an underground grotto they constructed. Inside the grotto is a statue of the Virgin Mary, which they bought at the Vatican. In the area above the grotto, is "holy hill" which is planted with many plants that have spiritual or religious names, including such hostas as: 'Holy Mole', 'Praying Hands', 'Stained Glass', 'Cathedral Windows', and 'Faith'. Their gardens also include a fairy bell walk, where one might see fairies or make other enchanting discoveries. Garden art and sculptures are around every corner. You might even be greeted by one of the resident chickens, goats, llama, or miniature donkeys. The gardens are accessible by paver paths, most of which are handicapped accessible.

The Pepin, WI Smith Brothers donated two wonderful pieces for two lucky winners.



Watch for the SOGHS signs at each garden. Contact Jan at 507-259-7096 or janice.gerke@gmail.com with questions.

Garden Notes

MRHS 2012



Operation
HOSTA