



The Hosta Leaf

Volume 6

Issue 1



OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings fellow hosta addicts!

This wonderful change in the weather has me thinking about Spring and dreaming of getting back out in my gardens, I can't

wait. I have to admit I'm a bit torn though. In addition to being an avid gardener, I'm also a skier, so I do hesitate a bit when it comes time for the snow to recede.

We have had a great start of the year with our first meeting on February 10th. Thank you to all who brought treats and helped Tricia put on a fantastic hostatality spread, it was very impressive and delicious! Our featured speaker, Terry Yockey, gave us all a fresh perspective on ground covers. I didn't realize how many ground covers I have in my gardens until Terry explained that ground covers aren't just low-growing plants. They are plants of all heights that cover large areas of ground. The critical take-away from Terry's presentation is that ground covers keep weeds out by being a beautiful, living mulch. I'm looking forward to seeing my living mulch in action in a few more months!! If you missed the meeting, you can see the slides from the business portion of the meeting in addition to Terry's presentation in the Member's Only section of the SOGHS web site. The new user ID and password for 2011 is **hosta2011**.

2011 is going to be a fun year. We have a fantastic board that has a ton of ideas on how to make your experience as a SOGHS member the best ever. I am very excited to be announcing we have three, yes, you read that correctly, THREE workshops scheduled for the year. In June we have a workshop on how to plant hosta container gardens. In July we have the opportunity to learn about how to prepare hosta leaves for a leaf show. This will be perfect timing for you to enter your leaves in the Olmsted County Fair, hint, hint ;^). The August workshop details are still in the works, but from what I know about it, you'll all want to attend. Many thanks for Karen Noltee for

organizing the workshops for 2011, your dedication is much appreciated!!

We have two great opportunities this year to attend hosta conventions. The first is to attend the National Hosta Society Convention in Marlborough, MA in June. For those who attended the National Convention last year in Minneapolis or prior years, you know what a great time it is. July brings us the opportunity to attend the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Milwaukee, WI. We're very fortunate to have the Midwest convention so close-by so we can experience what the convention is like before we are hosts in 2012. Hats off to the 2012 MRHS Convention Planning Committee for the significant amount of work they have put into planning and preparing for hosting the Midwest convention next year.

It's the volunteers of SOGHS that make our meetings, social events, plant sale, and tours possible. The benefits of volunteering are immense. While you work with others in the organization to plan and implement new offerings, you get the benefits of being around really talented people and building lasting friendships. If you have been contemplating volunteering, we'd love to have you on board. We're in need of someone to step forward and fill Jason Leigh's shoes next year as the plant sale director. It's very important that Jason's replacement be identified before the May plant sale so they can intern with Jason. We're also looking for someone to coordinate maintenance (watering and weeding) of the Hope Lodge Project gardens in 2011. Please contact me or another board member if you're interested in either of these critical SOGHS volunteer positions!!

Please mark your calendar for our next get-together. March 19th is our annual Coffee & Catalogs at Old Country Buffet. Come and enjoy a fun-filled morning of laughter, friendship, and enthusiasm as we browse through catalogs, take time to get caught up with each other, and rejoice that Spring is fast approaching!!

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events at <http://www.soghs.org/Xcalendar.html>

for all of the wonderful offerings we have in store for 2011. *Kim Greene*

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2011 Hostas of the Year for SOGHS Members

SOGHS 2011 OFFICERS

- o President - Kim Greene
k.k.greene@att.net
- o 1st Vice President / Garden Tours - Jan Gerke
jan_gerke@yahoo.com
- o 2nd Vice President / Programs/Education - Cindy Tomashek
prestonplants@aol.com
- o 3rd Vice President / Membership/Promotions - Mona Keehn
chum721@charter.net
- o Secretary/Historian - Joan Till-Born
rbjtb@hotmail.com
- o Treasurer- Tim Farnham
tjarnham69@yahoo.com
- o Plant Sale - Jason Leigh
Leigh.jason@mayo.edu
- o Hospitality - Tricia Torrens-Burton
jandttb@gmail.com
- Member fundraising - Jeanne Truedtedt
jetruets@attglobal.net
- o Webmaster - Gerry Meyer
gerrymeyer@att.net
- o Susy Olsen- Newsletter -
ga2hafun@gmail.com

Committee Chairs
2012 Convention Chairs
Cindy Tomashek
Prestonplants@aol.com
June Stoehr
June.Stoehr@bench.com

H. 'Grape Fizz' – Bob Solberg 2011 18" high, 40" wide
Although unique to the eye with its long, thick, bright green leaves, this hosta should be grown for its fragrant 3" flowers. Actually it is its dense cluster of grape striped flower buds that are the real show stoppers when they appear in August. It grows and blooms well in at least part sun. Plant near the garden path for close-up enjoyment, and remember, do not cut these scapes before they bloom. Cost \$35.



H. 'Gone with the Wind' – Olga Petryszyn 2010
25" high, 48" wide

Almost languid in form. Waving emerald green undulating leaves bordered in white rippling. Strong substance yet the leaves catch the breezes and float about. Thinking about a romantic hillside in Atlanta, the name Gone With The Wind captured this fluid hosta. Long pointed tips add to the elegance. Cost \$10.

H. 'Gitchigumi' – Olga Petryszyn 2010
28" high, 48" wide

Adding the Gitchigumi to the Americana series, this time the hybridizer honors Minnesota. Matching the cool fluid surface of this leaf brings a large blue lake to mind. The native Ojibwe language refers to Lake Superior as Gitchigumi, meaning big water. The large shiny round blue leaves hold quite horizontally and are slightly seer suckered.



The blue value seems unique. If you imagine white caps in the wind, you can see the white glaucous underside. The white bell shaped flowers are huge and heavily budded. Gloriously peaceful and soft on the eyes. Cost \$10.



H. 'Continental Divide' – Olga Petryszyn 2008
28" to 30" tall, 38" wide

Tall vase shaped with unusual coloring. The chartreuse center turns quite gold later in the summer. Very deep ribbing and a ruffled edge make this very large hosta show off. Beautiful shine. Named for the state of Colorado and the beautiful green colors of the lichens you see up high at the divide. Fertile blossoms. A stand out in your garden. Cost \$10

Contact Jerry Meyer for details.

Hostas must be picked up at Turkey Run Hostas May 13, 14, and 15th, Friday to Sunday, from 1pm – 8pm. Otherwise they will be donated to the SOGHS Plant Sale. Directions Turkey Run to pick up your purchases, can be found their website: www.turkeyrunhostas.com

2011 MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA CONVENTION

July 7-9, 2011 Sheraton Hotel, Madison, WI

<http://www.wihostasociety.com/html/registration.html>

Hosta enthusiasts are invited to the annual Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention next July 7, 8, and 9 in Madison, Wisconsin. (registration link above) Many members across these mid-western states have never been to a hosta convention. What is a hosta convention?

A hosta convention offers a number of enjoyable and educational activities to give you ideas and examples of ways to improve your garden and learn more about this most popular perennial plant. These activities include:

- **Garden Tours:** Attendees will tour five private gardens, where you will see new hostas, displayed, grouped, and matched with companion plants that will perhaps be new to you.
- **Leaf Show:** After judging Friday afternoon you will be able to see which were judged the best, again providing you with ideas as to possible additions to your garden. There are more than 100 categories of hostas judged. There will also be artistic displays to admire, and a special category of new hosta seedlings and sports.
- **Vendors:** Selling hostas will be vendors from North Carolina, Washington, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The vending area will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday [after you have seen the hosta show and the five gardens]. Hosta resource books will be available, including Mark Zilis' Hostapedia.
- **Auctions:** The auction will be available Friday evening [silent, and live bidding!], during which more new hostas can be acquired.
- **Judging Clinic:** Clinic #1 will be offered Friday morning. This is the first requirement to becoming a hosta judge, costing \$10, or you can download the required materials on your computer.
- **Social Events:** Friday evening join the fun at the evening's pig roast overlooking beautiful Lake Monona and the state capitol building. Saturday boasts an evening banquet, with a cash bar and there will be a buffet breakfast Saturday morning and a box lunch Saturday midday.
- **Speakers:** Our banquet speaker will be Ed Lyon, Director of Allen Centennial Garden on the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin. Speaking Friday afternoon, while the hosta show is being judged, will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture of Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin [an AHS Display garden]; and Robert Simiele, who links beautiful pictures of hostas with beautiful music.
- **Accommodations:** We will be housed in the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 1 (800) 325-3535, or 1 (608) 251-2300, where the special room rate will be \$103 plus tax.
- **Hostality:** In the evenings, after vending Thursday evening, after the auction Friday evening, and after the banquet Saturday evening, we will have "HOSTALITY," with water, soda, or beer, and snacks, on us!
Please watch this website for more information or click on the email link below.

hostameetjuly11@gmail.com

CONVENTION CONNECTION 2012



The 2012 MRHS Convention Planning Committee met on Sat., Jan. 29 at Vickie

LeCocq's house (Thanks, Vickie, for hosting another meeting!!). We began gathering budget information and reviewed some sample products we plan to use during the convention. We also viewed the most up-to-date version of our convention promotion video. Huge thanks to Susy Olsen for her creative genius in writing the script, staging the scenes, creating the props, editing the footage and splicing it all together - AND playing the starring role of June!! Her multiple talents are amazing! Thanks as well to the rest of the cast: Mona Keehn, Gerry Meyer, Darren Wendt, Jeanne Truedtedt, and to Vickie LeCocq, Mona Keehn and June Stoehr for assisting with filming. Thanks also to Rick and Mona Keehn for graciously allowing us to film at their home on two occasions. While the video looks great as it is, we hope to carve out a bit more to bring the time frame closer to 5 minutes. We'll show the final promo video at this summer's MRHS convention in Madison and at the 2012 Winter Scientific Meeting, plus a live link to the video will be on our convention web site. Speaking of our convention web site, kudos to Gerry

Meyer for building another great site!! Tricia Torrens-Burton has been hard at work to resolve problems with the convention logo that arose from incorporating our convention plant into the design. Thanks to her efforts we will soon be able to place an order for convention t-shirts. FYI, Gerry incorporated the t-shirt color into the web site by setting the background to match! The innovative thinking of this group is so awesome!!

While we're steadily making progress toward a great convention, we'd welcome your participation. If you want to catch the excitement, plan to attend our next planning meeting on April 16 (location TBA).

Your Convention Co-Chairs,
Cindy and June



unteers to help with the sale and provide plant donations. If you will need help digging plants, that service will be available again this year. We will request that any plants donated to the sale be healthy and in good condition. Dig plants as soon as possible in the spring and keep them watered well once in pots. We strive to provide a quality product to our customers, and don't want to try and sell plants that are drooping and in poor, dry soil. Our sale is a success due to the volunteers and the plant donations. Look forward to working with you again at this year's sale. Thanks. Jason Leigh

Hos-tal-i-ty

[hos-tal-i-tee] (-noun, plural ties.) The quality or disposition of receiving and treating SOGHS members and guests in a warm, friendly, generous way at SOGHS meetings. Includes greeting, the sharing of food, refreshments and door prizes.

If you would like to help with SOGHS Hostality, please contact Tricia Torrens-Burton.

If bringing a special treat, please include a small card with name of treat and your name to display next to your treat. We would love to publish "SOGHS Meeting Recipes" in future newsletters if you are willing to share that also. Thank you!



For those planning ahead and looking forward to warmer days of digging and planting, the 2011 Hosta Sale will be May 21st at the fairgrounds. As always we will be asking for vol-

If you don't have these, you should (word) find... these for your yard.

1998



2000



HOSTA WORD SEARCH by: SWMOgardens.com

T E U Q U O B T N A R G A R F
 A C L F T S L U G U L S S A R
 T N I S O S W E E T J D O E S
 S A B F I R S T F R S N G Y T
 O T E Y R O L G S L U A P E A
 R S R G T P U M U J L H R H I
 F B T I A S G G E S U G A T N
 T U Y R P I H L P A T N Y F E
 S S A U D T O L G G I I E O D
 R D J A R M E Q U A B Y S A G
 I N R A A N B A L E B A L T L
 F A E C D A G A S T A R U S A
 P M A O G G U L S E R P G O S
 S U R E A R T H A N G E L H S
 G S R A E E S U O M E U L B T

2001



2004



HOSTA OF THE YEAR

- 1996 So Sweet
- 1997 Patriot
- 1998 Fragrant Bouquet
- 1999 Paul's Glory
- 2000 Sagae
- 2001 June
- 2002 Guacamole
- 2003 Regal Splendor
- 2004 Sum and Substance

- 2005 Striptease
- 2006 Stained Glass
- 2007 Paradigm
- 2008 Blue Mouse Ears
- 2009 Earth Angel
- 2010 First Frost
- 2011 Praying Hands
- 2012 Liberty

2008



2011



Membership Moments

Welcome to a "New Year" with Shades of Green Hosta Society

We have an exciting calendar of events for 2011.

Shortly after the February 10th meeting, the username and password will be changed on our website and given to current members.

I have been contacting members up for renewal, so that everyone has the chance to access our "members only" area on the website. You can check with me at any time regarding the status of your dues. There is a printable Membership Form on the website to mail in your dues, or if all your information is correct, you can simply mail a check to me.

If you don't have access to our website, let me know if you would like a Membership Form or a hard copy of the current membership.

I will be looking for members willing to help at the 2011 Plant Sale membership table. It is a great opportunity to promote hostas and SOGHS. It's not too early to sign up or contact me if you are interested. 288-3511 or chum721@charter.net

Each current member will receive a Hosta Virus X test kit. This is a \$4.00 value. We will be offering a demonstration on how to use the test kits.

I am looking forward to serving SOGHS in my new role as Membership Chair. I will be working to promote SOGHS, as well as grow our membership. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you.

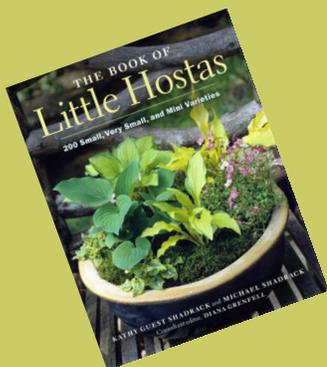
Mona Keehn

Membership/Promotions

Welcome to new members so far in 2011: Cindy Anderson, Melanie Erickson, Rita Buegler, Mary Thicke, and Dennis Youlden



Book Alert!



Joan Dotzenrod received this book as a Christmas gift and told me about it. Right away I got on Amazon.com, etc. to research it.

After exploring it on line, I placed my order and had it in a few days!

I recall only paying about \$23 including shipping and have enjoyed the pictures and information! Just what I needed to feed my frenzy for small hostas this time of the year! For those of you who are into the Mini – Small size hostas, this book is full of inspiration! Kathy and Michael Shadrack have another winner with this one.

Karen Noltee

Workshop Alert!

By Karen Noltee



Mark your calendars for early June 2011!

Many of you have been expressing interest in instructions and support for planting a Hosta Container of mini-small size hostas. A "Hands on Hosta Container Planting Workshop" is being planned. Location and date to be determined yet! Watch www.SOGHS.org for more information as it becomes available! You will be providing your own container and plants, we will provide inspiration, instructions, soil and hardscape mulch. SOGHS members fee is only \$5.00 and class size is limited to 15.

If you are interested, you may want to pay careful attention to Terry Yockey's suggestions for ground covers for shady to semi-shady areas on Feb. 10th! They might be nice hosta companion plants for small containers.

AHS National Convention Marlborough, Massachusetts June 23–25, 2011

"Hostas and Heritage" Hosted by the New England Hosta Society

www.hosta2011.org

**Drive, fly or come by train...
but don't miss the**

**"Hostas and Heritage" Convention
in New England!**

*Garden Tours - Lectures and Classes - First Look and Hosta Show-Auctions -
Ice Cream Social - Awards and a Banquet -Hosta Vendors Galore -
Hostatality - And More Garden Tours*

Hotel: [Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel](http://www.bestwestern.com) in Marlborough, MA.

Phone: 888-543-9500 Make your reservation no later than 5/28/2011
and don't forget to mention "American Hosta Society"
to receive the convention room rate.

Tour Gardens in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Plus optional garden tour days on June 22 and June 26th in Connecticut and Massachusetts!

Speakers include Rick Goodenough ("Hosta Hybridizing – Art or Science?")
Mike & Kathy Shadrack ("Little Hostas")

Leo Blanchette ("Five Genera for the Shade")

Ken Harris ("So You Want to Get Your Photo Published in the Hosta Journal")

Kaye Vosburgh and Gilbert Moore ("Hosta Arrangements for Home and Show")

Registration: Visit www.hosta2011.org for registration forms.

For More Information: Visit www.hosta2011.org.

Upcoming Conventions: Middle Tennessee Hosta Society - June 13-16, 2012



Speaker for April 7th meeting - Rob Mortko "Tissue Culture for Dummies...Like Me"

Topic: Most hostaholics have heard of tissue culture and may even appreciate that nearly all new hostas cultivars are propagated via TC. But what is tissue culture and how does it work? Both a remarkably simple and yet complex subject, we will demystify TC by understanding how hostas grow - both in test tubes and in your garden. Rob's background in chemistry and engineering coupled with his hosta interests kindled a longtime curiosity in tissue culture. Rob's recent retirement from his engineering career has afforded him the opportunity to start-up his own tissue culture lab where he has had to address many of these same questions. The presentation will include a behind the scenes look at what goes on in a TC lab.

Biography: Rob is a degreed chemical engineer and recently retired from Black & Veatch in Kansas City where he was Vice President of Process Technology. His passion for shade gardening and hostas has grown over the past 25 years since he and his wife Sheri moved into their shaded woodland home in Olathe, Kansas (a Kansas City suburb).

Their shade gardens have been featured on various public garden tours, on local TV, and in "Kansas City Homes and Gardens Magazine". Rob's "spare time" is now devoted to Made in the Shade Gardens - a home-based, retail business specializing in hostas. Made in the Shade Gardens offers over 400 varieties of hostas. Rob also operates a tissue culture laboratory where most of his hostas are propagated.



In 2000 Rob registered and introduced his first hosta cultivar named 'Heart and Soul'. His latest introduction named 'Stitch in Time' has been awarded a U.S. plant patent. More information can be found on their website at: www.HostaGuy.com.

Gardens, Shopping, Tours...Oh My!

Spring is just around the corner (think warm thoughts, everyone). Recall the excitement of beautiful gardens and anticipation as you plan the changes you'll make in your gardens. To help satisfy your urges, this year's tours are starting to take shape. If you're interested in helping with the bus tour, member tours, or other potential carpool tours, please contact Jan Gerke at (507)259-7096, email jan_gerke@yahoo.com.

On Thursday, May 26th, Cindy Tomashek is again hosting a spring open house of her gardens. Cindy's gardens are always amazing, so don't miss this opportunity to ooh and aah and see hosta varieties and other perennials and shrubs you may not see elsewhere.

The SOGHS bus tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th. Cost will remain \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. The tentative plan is to tour gardens and nurseries in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities. However, that is not cast in stone yet and could change pending the survey results.

Our member tours are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 5:30 (tentatively) to 8:30 on June 16th and July 14th. Please consider putting your garden on tour this year. Speaking from experience, it's a great incentive to get your gardens in tip top shape so you can enjoy the rest of the summer. Members who put their gardens on tour receive a special tour appreciation hosta and label. Contact Jan via phone or email if you'd like to schedule your garden for a tour (or if you're thinking about it for next year).

We have a very special opportunity this year with the Midwest Regional Hosta convention just three hours away in Madison, Wi. It is scheduled for July 7th - 9th. If there is interest, we will consider coordinating carpools to the convention. Of course there will be gardens to visit as part of the convention.

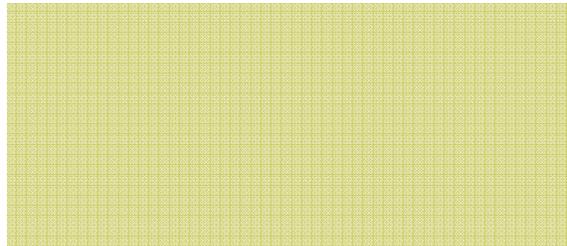
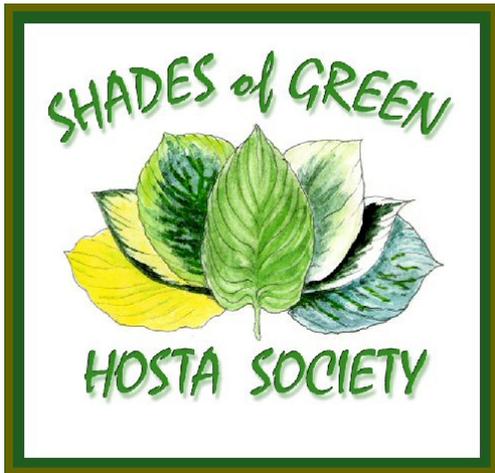
As interest dictates, we will coordinate carpools to additional gardens or nurseries (eg. Milwaukee or Janesville areas) which are too far away for our bus tours, by adding a day either before or after the convention. Boerner Botanical Garden is located in Hale's Corners (a Milwaukee suburb) and The Flower Source is located in Germantown, plus there are numerous other public gardens and nurseries in the area. Klehm's Song Sparrow Perennial Farm (not typically open for tours, but who knows...) and Land of the Giants Hosta Farm are near Janesville and The Flower Factory is located in Stoughton (between Madison and Janesville). The destination(s) for any extra touring would be up to the members of the carpool. We'd help link people up so you can share the costs and the fun of exploring new gardens or nurseries.

The summer will definitely be filled with lots of opportunities to satisfy your hosta obsessions. Mark the above dates on your calendars. Please let Jan know if you have any ideas for future tours or if you want to volunteer your time by helping with any of these tour opportunities or showcase your gardening green thumb by putting your garden on tour.

By the way, thanks again to everyone who's responded to the tour survey todate! We appreciate and need your feedback to help give you the garden touring opportunities you want. Responses are due by February 25th. If you haven't responded, don't delay...do so today!



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



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 10 : Annual member meeting, Speaker: Terry Yockey, Topic: Establishing Ground Covers - The Living Mulch, Location: GSLC *
- February 22 : Executive board meeting
- March 10-11: [Great Lakes Hosta College, Piqua, OH](#)
- March 19 - Coffee and Catalogs, Old Country Buffet, (8:30am - 10:30am)
- March 29: Executive Board Meeting
- April 7 :General Meeting - Speaker: Rob Mortko on "Tissue Culture for Dummies, Location: GSLC*
- May 1: Public sign-up for June SOGHS bus tour
- May 10 : Executive Board Meeting
- May 21 : SOGHS Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale, Bldg 40, Olmsted County Fairgrounds
- May 26 : Spring Open House for SOGHS members and guests
- June 11 : SOGHS bus trip - garden tours and hosta buying opportunities
- June 16 : SOGHS member garden tour for members and guests (5:30am - 8:30am)
- June 22-24: [AHS 2011 National Convention, Marlborough, MA](#)
- July 7-9 :[MRHS 2011 Convention, Madison, WI](#)
- July 14: SOGHS member garden tour for members and guests (5:30am - 8:30am)
- July 16: Workshop: Preparing Hosta Leaves for a leaf show, watch for details
- July 21 : [Rochester Flower and Garden Club tour](#)
- July 25-29: [Olmsted County Fair - Hosta Leaf Show - see Fair Book for details](#)
- August --- Workshop: TBD
- September 10: Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction
- September 20: Executive Board Meeting
- October 6: General member meeting, details TBD
- October 24: Executive Board Meeting
- November 10: General member meeting /year-end special event/ photo contest/ Board Election, Location: GSLC*
- November 29 : Joint executive board meeting of 2011 and 2012 officers

***Meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC), 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN**