



# The Hosta Leaf

Date: Jan-Feb 2014

Volume 8 Issue 1

# Happy New Year!

Wow, I can't believe it's the new year already. I hope you are all managing to stay warm in this frigid weather. Luckily we have a bit of snow cover to help protect our beloved hostas as they endure these cold temps. 2014 is looking to be a fabulous year with lots of activities planned. We are starting the new year with a bang with the Snowflake Gala that will be held at the Willow Creek Golf Course on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gerry Meyer and team have done a fantastic job of putting together a wonderful evening for us to jumpstart the year reminiscing and reconnecting while enjoying a delicious meal. I hope to see you there!

Susy Olsen with her boundless energy and incredible creativity has 5 workshops planned for 2014. These workshops are guaranteed to be educational and fun, while providing a great opportunity to get to know fellow members better. Don't forget to sign up or offer to help out.

Jan Gerke is lining up another incredible tour season for us. The June bus trip is always so much fun with the opportunity to visit some new garden centers, tour beautiful gardens, and shop for hostas. It never amazes me how many plants can be stowed under the bus. There is a bit of creativity that happens every year as purchases from the last stop are held on laps, put in the overhead compartment, or nestled in amongst the already brimming undercarriage to make their way to their new homes.

I'm really looking forward to our February meeting. We will be learning about pond installation from Michael Otte of Whitewater Gardens. Water features provide a wonderful, relaxing setting to any landscape. Additionally, we will be having board elections at the meeting. As you will recall, at the October meeting we had two board positions (2<sup>nd</sup> VP Programs/Education and Webmaster) that had not been filled. Since that time Kris Hust has volunteered to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Programs/Education position and Dave Cocker has volunteered to take the Webmaster position, thank you Kris and Dave! We will be voting on these two positions at the February meeting.

Norrie MacIlraith has done a great job putting together a very colorful newsletter that is brimming with information. Be sure to check out her tips on beating the winter blues and the excellent reading materials she has referenced. I was unaware of three out of the four web site links, thank you for sharing these resources with your fellow hostaholics.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so soon, we want you to continue on with us in 2014. I hope to see each of you soon, Happy New Year!

Kim Greene  
President

**Congratulations Susy Olsen for work well done as Newsletter Editor and having the November issue selected by AHS as outstanding newsletter for 2013. I understand, not**



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**SOGHS 2014 Board**

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Dave Cocker  
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- Newsletter Editor-  
Norrie MacIraith  
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# SOGHS Snowflake Gala!

## Join us to Kick Off 2014!

**Thursday, Jan. 23rd**  
**Willow Creek Golf & Country Club**  
**1700 48th Street S W**

**6 PM - Warm Up with**  
**Wine appetizers & cash bar**

**7 PM - Dinner Served**  
**Slow Roasted Pork Loin w/Apples**  
**Green Beans Almondine**  
**Tossed Salad Herb Roasted Potatoes**  
**Rolls Cold Stone Creamery Dessert**

**Spouses & Guests Welcome!**

**Tickets \$15**

Make your check out to "SOGHS"

Mail by January 13th to:

Larry Schmidt

58280 County Rd 21

Zumbro Falls, MN 55991

843-6331 [PJALAR@yahoo.com](mailto:PJALAR@yahoo.com)

Door  
Prizes!

**Reminder:**

**Renew Your**

**Membership and**

**Order**

**Your Name Tags!**

Send dues to:

Mona Keehn

1635 Chippewa Dr. NW

Rochester, MN 55901



## Visions of Hosta Tours are Dancing in My Head

Happy New Year, everyone! I'm getting anxious for our 2014 touring season, in spite of snow and frigid temperatures. Don't forget to mark those brand new calendars with all of our SOGHS dates and especially the dates for our tours.



The SOGHS garden touring season will kick off with Cindy and Mike Tomashek hosting the Spring Open House on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is sure to be a fun evening once again! Stay tuned for more information on plans and activities.

Our annual bus tour is set for Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> with the bus heading north. We will be touring gardens and visiting garden centers and nurseries around the Twin Cities. Details are yet to be worked. Watch for more information and the sign-up sheet at our February 6<sup>th</sup> member meeting. I anticipate no change in cost...\$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Sign-up will be opened to the general public on May 1<sup>st</sup> if seats remain available.

This year we will again do the two evening format for our member garden tours, which will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>. These tours will highlight residential sized gardens, for you SOGHS members who feel your gardens can't compare with the bigger gardens. The hostas we will provide as member gifts for opening your gardens up to your SOGHS friends have not yet been selected, but there will be a couple to choose from once again. New this year, our executive board has agreed to reimburse you up to a \$50 limit (receipts required) for treats (non-alcoholic beverages only) served to tour guests. Of course, any refreshments or snacks remain entirely optional. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting if you would like to put your gardens on the June or July tour. New or old, shade or sun, there are many benefits to having smaller sized gardens. Please consider joining in the fun of hosting your gardens for one of these events...they are truly heart-warming evenings. Call or email me if you have any questions.

On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> we will take a carpool tour, heading west toward Faribault. In addition to a stop at Roger and Kak Koopmans in Faribault, we will tour SOGHS member gardens. Roger specifically requested a July date because of all the flowers (including many begonias) filling their gardens. Longtime American Hosta Society members, the Koopmans gardens have been on several national convention tours (the latest being the optional tours before the 2010 AHS convention in Minneapolis). I am anxious to finally have an opportunity to see them! I have one member garden already for this carpool tour, but I'm looking for one or two more gardens to add to our itinerary. So for those who live west of Rochester, here's a chance to host some SOGHS friends in your gardens. As with our June and July member tours, you will receive a free hosta for your generosity, plus you will be reimbursed for any non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks served (receipts required, \$50 maximum).

An overnight carpool tour to the Winter Greenhouse in late May or June is still tempting me. I haven't looked into possible accommodations or anything else yet. Finding a date on the calendar may be tough with all the other activities and conventions during this time. My apologies to those who work, but perhaps a Sunday/Monday or even a mid-week event would be easiest. I'd love your input, pros and cons. Watch for a sign-up sheet at the February meeting to help me gauge the interest level.

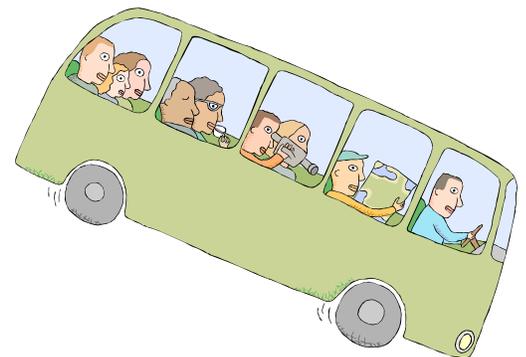
I look forward to providing you with a year filled with many opportunities for fun touring times!

Jan Gerke, (507)259-7096, Janice.gerke@gmail.com

About Your Newsletter: Please do not hesitate to provide input: ask questions; and make suggestions. As your new Newsletter Editor, I would like to have everyone enjoy the news, contribute as you wish—I will welcome guest feature articles written by anyone who would like to contribute. Topics may be those of Personal Interest, Diseases, Plant Care, Plant Development, Insect Control, Landscaping ideas, whatever!

Articles are due on the **15th of the month** preceding publication:

February, April, June, August, October and December.





2013 Hosta of the Year: H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'

## Winter Blues?

Not sure how to spend these Winter months? Here is a suggestion : we often make New Year's Resolutions only to have them broken so instead choose a word for the year and make all your actions center around it. For instance: Finish; Organize; Read.

Then make sublists of the thoughts and activities to go along with it.

Dream of the warmer days to come and applying all these plans!

**Reading Material of Interest: Available at AHS or through other publishers.**

*Hostas - An Essential Guide*, By Richard Ford, 2010, hardcover, 9.7" x 7.4", The Crowood Press, UK, 192 pp. ISBN 9781847972187

*The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small and Mini Varieties*, Kathy Guest Shadrack and Michael Shadrack Consulting Editor Diana Grenfell, 2010, hardcover, 7"x9", Timber Press, Inc, Portland, OR, USA 208pp. ISBN 9781604690606

*The Hostapedia*, Mark R. Silis, 2009, hardcover, 9"x12", Q&Z Nursery, Inc., Rochelle, IL, USA 1128pp, ISBN 978-0-9679440-1-2

*Hostas*, Rosemary Barrett, photographs by Derek Hughes, February 2004, hardcover and oversize paperback, 143 pages, Publisher: Davis Bateman Ltd. ISBN: 9781869535209-10: 1869535200

### Some Links to Explore:

The Hosta library: [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org)

Fraternal Order of Seedy Fellow [www.foosf.com](http://www.foosf.com)

Hosta Seed Growers [www.hostaseedgrowers.com](http://www.hostaseedgrowers.com)

Hosta Seed Growers Forum [www.hostaseedlings.com](http://www.hostaseedlings.com)

Attend a Workshop

Research New Plants

Landscape planning

Interact with Others

Look Forward to the New Year!

# 2014 MRHS Convention - "Hostas by the Bay"



2014 Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) Convention Registration Form  
 June 26-28, 2014, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
 Hosted by: Green & Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin

To Register, mail one completed registration form per person.  
 Include check payable to "GGHS/MRHS Convention 2014".  
**REFUND POLICY: NO Refunds will be made after May 30.** Make a copy of this for your records.

**Printed Name** (First & Last, as you want it on your badge. One letter per line please.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>ZIP Code</b>
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<b>E-mail *</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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**Hotel: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center**  
**2040 Airport Dr, Green Bay, WI 54313**  
 Hotel reservation must be made separately. Call (920) 494-7300 or 800-333-3333. Mention **"MRHS Convention"** for convention room rate of \$99 + tax for single/double occupancy/night through May 30. Hotel guests get large breakfast buffet. Convention rate not available on-line.

Publish my name in Attendee list?  
 Yes  No

\* Confirmations will be sent by E-mail only.  
 For questions E-mail pathen33@yahoo.com.

**Meals Included:** Friday Tailgate Dinner and Saturday Banquet.  
 Saturday banquet choice:  Beef Short Ribs  Walleye  Vegetarian/Gluten Free Friday and Saturday

**Auction Donations**  
 I will donate plants or items for the Friday night auction. Approximate number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auction proceeds go to the MRHS. Please support MRHS with a donation.

**Hosta Leaf Show:** Preparation time is Thursday, 6/26 from 6-9:00 PM and Friday, 6/27 from 7-10:30 AM.  
 Check if you plan to:  Enter  Judge  Clerk (Judging will begin Friday, 6/27 at 11:30 AM)  
 Check each category  Cut Leaf (Limit of 20 Leaves)  Trough/Container Garden for Effect  
 you plan to enter:  Container Grown  Educational Display  
 Artistic Design\*  Non-Competitive Exhibit  
 \* The themes are: Hostas By the Bay, Hostas in the Off-Season, Heritage Hill and Let's Go to Bay Beach

**Judges Clinic I, Friday, 6/27, from 9-11:00 AM:**  
 I will attend judges clinic I  
 A current Judges Handbook is required. You may download the free Judges Handbook at www.hosta.org.  
 Check here if you want to purchase the official handbook/binder at the clinic. (\$10.00 payable at convention)

**Speakers:** The educational class speakers will be Leo Bordeleau of Rose Hill Gardens on 'Heucheras-A Wonderful Companion to Hostas' and Roy Brodhagen of Apple Valley Nursery on 'Conifers for Shade'.

**Class**  
 Pebble birdhouse make & take Friday morning \$45.00.  
 (Limit 20 people)

**Convention Registration**  
 \$120 Full Registration (Postmarked By 5/30/14)  
 \$160 Late Full Registration (After 5/30/14)  
 \$90 Meals Only  
 Full registration includes the following: Hosta "Cheesehead", admission to the Green Bay Botanical Garden, Friday night tailgate party, leaf show participation, 6 self guided garden tours, 2 seminar speakers plus Saturday banquet and speaker.

**Optional Tour, Thursday 6/26 Transportation Provided at 3:00 PM**  
 Meissner Nursery/garden tour and Door County fish boil.  
 \$40 Per Person (Minimum of 50, maximum of 100 people)  
 Meissner's Website: <http://www.meissnerlandscape.com/>

For the latest details, schedules, updates, etc. go to:  
<http://greenandgoldhosta.org/2014-convention.html>

**Payment**

Early Registration:	\$ _____
Late Registration:	\$ _____
Meals Only:	\$ _____
Thur. Tour & Door	
County Fish Boil:	\$ _____
Pebble Birdhouse	
Class:	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Make checks payable to:  
**GGHS/MRHS Convention 2014**  
 Send this form and check to:  
**Germaine Schwaller**  
**N1492 Blue Heron Trail**  
**Keshena WI 54135**  
 Germaine's E-mail: [gmschwaller@yahoo.com](mailto:gmschwaller@yahoo.com)

# **Czech it Out!**

*Vitáme Vás*  
(we welcome you)

The 2014 AHS Convention is less than a year away. **Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited to be your host for this convention. We have been planning and working hard to make your visit to Iowa a positive experience, and the convention a memorial one.

*The convention will feature an optional bus tour on Wednesday and a driving tour on Thursday to showcase our local culture and cuisine*

## **The Amana Colonies**

The colonies are a world reknown tourist destination that offers old world German charm.

## **The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library**

This Cedar Rapids Museum celebrates the culture and heritage of thousands of Czech and Slovak immigrants to Linn and Johnson counties.

*Of course, the real reason for attending the convention is for the hostas and gardens.*

The rich black soil of the heartland provides an excellent environment for beautiful gardens accented with the creative flavor of Middle America.

- **We have 10 exciting gardens for you to visit on Friday and Saturday**
- **More optional gardens on Sunday as you return home**

**Harshbarger Hosta Society** is excited and proud to be hosting the 2014 AHS Convention. We will have the Collins Road Marriott Hotel to ourselves to enhance the experience.

*Come to the convention to ....*

- ✓ See our Hostas!
- ✓ Sample our Heritage (be sure to check out yours)
- ✓ Experience our Warm Midwestern Hospitality

**Come to Cedar Rapids June 11-14, 2014**



**to *Čzech it Out!***

HarshbargerHostaSociety.org



## Upcoming Workshops

Susy Olson is planning some workshops this year and hopes that you will find them of interest and plan to sign up. These are a new idea on the horizon and with much enthusiasm will be successful!

**February 15th**      **May 22nd**      **May 24th**      **July 19th**      **October 4th**

**Winter Workshop: “Hosta Tracker”** Do you get overwhelmed with how to best keep track of the hostas and other perennials you have purchased? Do you need a system to keep from buying plants you already have? Come to this workshop to investigate systems that might work for you. What to bring? If you have a laptop or jump drive, please bring it. Want to sign up or help or offer your home for the workshop?? Contact Susy at [ga2hafun@gmail.com](mailto:ga2hafun@gmail.com)

**When: February 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

### **Spring Workshop: “Give Me the Dirt”**

This will be a down and dirty workshop where we can all get our hands a little dirty. Recipes will be shared for potting mixes you can make yourself. If you have a good potting mix recipe for hostas and other shade plants as well as one that is good for the flowers in the sun, let me know. I'll get them printed up. All who participate will get a 2 gallon bag of potting mix, all submitted recipes and a mystery gift. Want to sign up or help? Contact Susy at [ga2hafun@gmail.com](mailto:ga2hafun@gmail.com)

**When: May 22, at the Spring Open House hosted by Cindy Tomashek. This will take place at 2 different time slots during the open house!**

### **Spring Workshop: “Mystery of the Unlabeled Hosta “**

Lost a tag or two? Got a hosta from someone but you don't know what it is? Did your grand-kids pull out plant stakes when you weren't looking? Come to this workshop to learn how to sort through the over 7,000 different hosta cultivars and species to determine what you have in your own yard. We will start in the yard of Susy Olsen, workshop chair. After a brief talk, we will break into small teams to practice what we learn. Want to sign up or help? Volunteer your yard, offer input or your expertise? Experts needed. Contact Susy at [ga2hafun@gmail.com](mailto:ga2hafun@gmail.com)

**When: May 24 at 10:30 am at Susy Olsen's yard.**

### **Summer Workshop: “Seed Collection & Planting”**

This workshop will help you get started with harvesting, marking, and planting hosta seeds and tracking their characteristics and parent-age. If you are interested in seeing what interesting gifts 'nature's little helpers' have given you during the pollination season and what to do when the seedlings appear, you'll want to sign up for this class. Want to sign up or help? Volunteer your yard, offer input or your expertise? Contact Susy at [ga2hafun@gmail.com](mailto:ga2hafun@gmail.com) Experts needed..

**When and Where: July 19 at 10:30 am Location TBD**

### **Autumn Workshop: Water Feature**

Want a water feature but haven't seen one that meets your aesthetic or pocket book requirements? This workshop will be a chance to get your creative juices 'flowing' and make your own. If you plan on signing up for this workshop, start shopping for clearance or used items. Suggestions: Outer container to hold up to 3-5 gallons of water (You may or may not want to drill a hole in this.) , smaller container that will sit in or on the outer container that can drain or allow water overflow into the outer container, a small water pump and hosing. Want to help? Email Susy for details at [ga2hafun@gmail.com](mailto:ga2hafun@gmail.com)

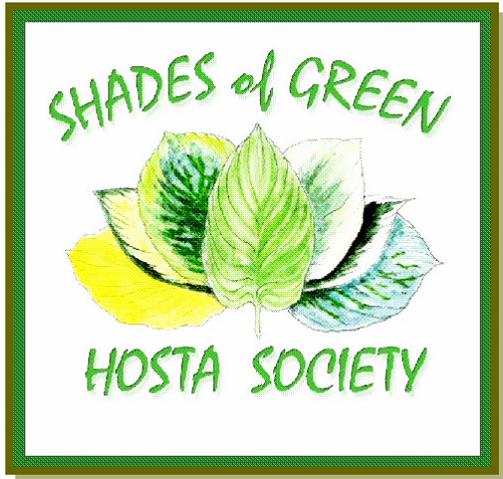
**When and Where: October 4 at 10:30 am Location TBD**

Fun!

Learn!

Share

Norrie MacIraith  
SOGHS Newsletter Editor  
2915 15th Avenue NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
507-993-5144



### ***SOGHS 2014 Highlights- Upcoming Calendar of Events***

- **January 18 - Winter Scientific Meeting, Lisle, IL**
- **January 23 - Snowflake Gala, Willow Creek Golf Course, 6:00 PM**
- **February 6 - Annual member meeting, "Pond Installation" by Michael Otte**
- **February 15 - Workshop: "Hosta Tracker", 10:30 AM**
- **March 14-15 - Great Lakes Hosta College, Piqua, OH**
- **March 22 - Coffee & Catalogs, Old Country Buffet, (8:30 AM - 10:30 AM)**
- **April 3 - Member meeting, in progress**
- **May 1 - Public sign-up for June SOGHS bus tour**
- **May 17 - SOGHS Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale, Bldg 40, Olmsted County Fairgrounds**
- **May 22 - Spring Open House at Cindy's, Workshop: "Give Me the Dirt"**
- **May 24 - Workshop: "Mystery of the Unlabeled Hosta", 10:30 AM**

*Full calendar may be found on website: [www.soghs.org](http://www.soghs.org)*