



The Hosta Leaf

June/July 2013

Volume 8 Issue 3

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The President's Pen
 Oh my, what a gardening season we have experienced so far this year. I can hardly believe the roller coaster ride we have been on. I never fathomed when I booked my airline ticket for my early May business trip that I would need my 4-wheel drive truck to get to the highway to catch my flight! While that wet heavy snow provided us some much needed moisture, considering the drought we had been in, it was really hard on the trees. We lost a number of branches on numerous trees and have had some trees bent over in unsightly strange positions; we need to work with to get them looking back to normal. Let's hope for no more snow and some more reasonable weather for this time of the year!

I had the privilege on April 30th to present four scholarships to RCTC horticulture students on behalf of SOGHS. I was able to attend the reception prior to the scholarship program this year and met three of the four students that received our scholarships. They were so very appreciative of the scholarships; what a deserving lot! One of the recipients had a 4.0 GPA and the other two had a 3.73 or better GPAs; yeah!! What I found very interesting about the scholarship recipients is that they were all adults returning to the university to get an additional degree, so they were very mature and really knew what they wanted in life. They were so exceptionally appreciative of the scholarships as this meant they could spend more time focusing on their degrees and fewer hours working to pay for their degrees. Please see the thank you letter from Ryan Brick in the newsletter on just how much these scholarships mean to the students that receive them.

Our annual hosta sale was a success again this year despite the fact that uncooperative weather forced some last minute hosta purchases from growers so we had something more than hosta pips for sale. Thank you Denny Bowe and Gerry Meyer for all of your work to make this possible! Our annual hosta sale is the main money maker for our club. I also want to

send an immense thank you to all of you that volunteered your time and plants, and supported the club by purchasing plants!

It was great to see some great plants while getting caught up with people at the Open House that was held at Rick and Mona Keehn's this year. Thank you Rick and Mona! The touring doesn't stop here, Jan Gerke has an exciting tour schedule for us again this year. Jan's article is packed with information on all of the potential tour opportunities for the season. One thing I would like to do is encourage members to sign up their gardens for either the June or Julyt ours My husband and I agreed to put our gardens on the SOGHS members' garden tour in 2009. What I found very interesting about signing up to be on the tour that year is how much we learned. We thought we had been watering our hostas sufficiently, however being on the tour, we were so much more cognizant of how much rain we were getting and how much of that rain was really reaching the hostas, since they are typically under a tree canopy. What an EYE OPENER!! We had no idea how water-starved many of our hostas were once we really started paying attention. The tour kept us watering to keep them in tip-top shape. So if you're looking to gain some further insights into your gardens, sign up to be on either the June or July tour, you'll be amazed and ever so thankful at how very much you will learn. It will pay off for years to come.

If, by now, you have not gained the insight to what kept you sane while waiting for that outrageous winter to end, you may be suffering from the common malady of fellow SOGHS members called HOSTAMANIA. Well, you're in luck! There are two different opportunities this summer to help cure this malady. The American Hosta Society (AHS) convention will be in Milwaukee, WI in June and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) convention is being held in Lisle, IL in July. Check it out!

Happy Hosta-ing fellow members, I hope to see each and every one of you at one of our several gathering opportunities this summer.
 Kim Greene, SOGHS President



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

By Mona Keehn

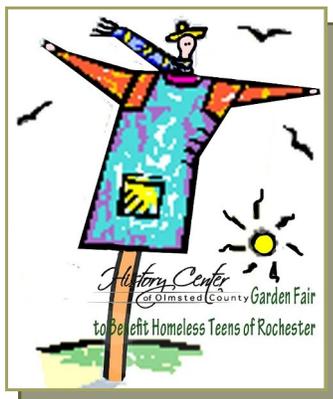
Things in the garden are off to a slow start this year, but there is no stopping the membership of SOGHS! We have ten new members since the last newsletter, five of which joined at the plant sale.

That takes our membership to 226. If you are wondering how to order one of our name badges, you can contact me and I will get one ordered for you at the great price of \$6.00. They attach with a strong magnet so there is no need to

punch holes into your clothing. Please welcome:
 Jeffrey Bailey Kelby Rushton
 Peg Hansen Rochelle Kasper
 Pam Setera Diane Nordskog
 Sue Urness Terrie Jacobson
 Mary Moen Nancy Wondrasch

SOGHS 2013 Officers

- President -
Kim Greene
k.k.greene@att.net
- 1st Vice President /
Garden Tours -
Jan Gerke
janice.gerke@gmail.com
- 2nd Vice President /
Programs/Education -
Cindy Tomashek
prestonplants@aol.com
- 3rd Vice President /
Membership/Promotions -
Mona Keehn
chum721@charter.net
- Secretary/Historian -
Joan Till-Born
rbjtb@hotmail.com
- Treasurer-
Larry Schmidt
pjalar@yahoo.com
- Plant Sale -
Denny Bowe
bowe442@msn.com
- Hospitality -
Tricia Torrens-Burton
jandttb@gmail.com
- Member fundraising -
Jeanne Truedstedt
jeanne@truedstedt.org
- Webmaster -
Gerry Meyer
gerrymeyer@att.net
- Newsletter Editor-
Susy Olsen
ga2hafun@gmail.com



Hosta Hot-Spot for the month...



Land of the Giants Hosta Farm



For a worthwhile four hour road trip, take the drive to this edition's "Hosta Hotspot," the Land of the Giants, in Milton Wisconsin to visit AHS members Jeff and Penny Miller. Here is a description of what you can expect, taken from their website.

Come to the Land of the Giants Hosta Farm during our open house hours or by appointment, where we have three acres of shade gardens with trails that twist around the 220,000 planted Hostas with over 2,100 different varieties. See the incredible 30,000 gallon pond with four waterfalls. Surrounding the pond there are beautiful perennials, trees and of course a variety of Hostas. While strolling, or sitting on the many benches throughout the shade gardens of Land of the Giants Hosta Farm, you can enjoy the serenity of the gardens, thinking of what you can do in your gardens.

We have people from all over the United States that come to enjoy our gardens. From northern MN to Florida and from New York to Washington. People who have visited the gardens have commented that they hope heaven looks like this!



Normal business hours by appointment only. To make your 2013 appointment to visit one of the largest shade gardens in the country, call 608.580.0190.

First Ever....

A Gardening Fair will be held Saturday, June 1 at the History Center of Olmsted County from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. There will be exhibitors from nurseries, crafters, demonstrations and kid activities. Food and beverages will also be available to purchase. Anybody interested in a booth to display or sell items please contact Sherrie Bowe - 282-7032. Rental space is \$50.00 with all proceeds benefiting homeless teens in Rochester.

Thank you! *Sherrie Bowe*

HOSTAMANIA

SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST!

MRHS Convention July 11 – 13, Lisle, IL

Local hosta societies throughout the Midwest are being asked to identify members afflicted with the malady called HOSTAMANIA! The Northern Illinois Hosta Society has developed intensive treatment options that will be available only to those who come to the Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in Lisle, IL, July 11 – 13, 2013. HOSTAMANIA is the unstoppable second stage of hostaholicism, which was most thoughtfully addressed at the 2012 MRHS Convention by the Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeastern Minnesota.

Symptoms of HOSTAMANIA include:

Persistent feelings that one possesses an inadequate number of hostas
 A shortage of exceptional hosta gardens to visit in the sufferers' hometowns
 Limited opportunity to learn even more about hostas and other plants
 Not enough occasions to interact with other hosta lovers

Among the therapies offered at the convention:

Ten vendors of the latest hosta varieties, companion plants, and more
 Hosta auction and leaf show

A tour of ten beautiful, private gardens that feature countless hostas
 Opportunities to visit renowned public gardens
 Seminars led by popular, knowledgeable speakers
 Lots of fellow HOSTAMANIACS who are crazy about hostas

Nutrition issues will be the focus of two dinners at the headquarters treatment facility, the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (HMHQ). Many excellent restaurants are nearby for other meals.

The cost of addressing the HOSTAMANIA disorder is quite reasonable: A fee of \$119 covers all remedies mentioned above. Accommodations at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton (www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/N/NAPHIHF-CMRH-20130711/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) cost only \$96 per night plus tax; full breakfast, pool, workout room, and parking are included.

Additional information at www.mrhs2013.org will be updated regularly.

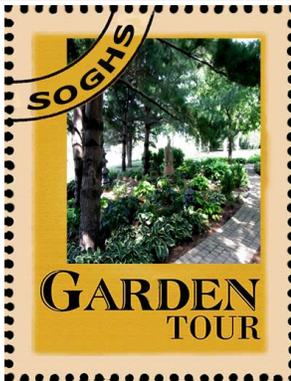


THE GARDEN OF
MONA AND RICK KEEHN
AT THE SPRING 2013
OPEN HOUSE
GARDEN TOUR



Members came out for the open house even with the raindrops in the air. Thank you Mona and Rick your gardens for this annual event. It was a wonderful way to start out the SOGHS touring season!





GARDEN TOURING TIME IS HERE!

The Spring Open House at Mona and Rick Keehn's was a fun evening in spite of some sprinkles and chilly temps. And yes, their hostas were in all stages of growth, but the soft light made the gold and char-treuse varieties glow! Hostatality, including; snacks, beverages, door prizes, and a silent auction completed a great evening.

Our **SOGHS bus trip** to northeast Iowa **June 8th** is within two seats of being full! Thanks to everyone who signed up...it should be another fun day of touring. We will see some gorgeous and unique gardens in addition to

shopping for plants and garden related items. If you aren't signed up and want to go, please contact me at (507)259-7096, Janice.gerke@gmail.com, to claim one of the seats remaining or put your name on a wait list in case of a last minute cancellation.

The **member garden tours on June 19 - 20 and July 16 - 17** are not yet set. If you are considering putting your garden on tour, please give me a call. There are three hostas to choose from as your gift from SOGHS if you decide to host a tour this year. Those first to sign up can have first choice of these three: H. 'Slim and Trim' (a small blue-green hosta), H. 'Monica's Golden Crinkles' (a medium sized yellow hosta), and H. 'Lakeside Hoola Hoop' (a small bright green with yellow margins). If we do not have enough gardens signed up to do tours in both June and July, we will just do the July member tour. Please watch the SOGHS web-site for updates and information on the gardens.

After a slow start to spring, our **Coulee Carpool Caravan** is now scheduled for **Sunday, June 23rd**. We will meet at Shopko South at 11:30am where we will consolidate vehicles and take off for the LaCrosse area.

We will be visiting the following nurseries and gardens:

- Shades of Green USA in West Salem, which has display gardens as well as hostas for sale (while they cannot sell from their home, they will take us to a nearby floral shop they sell from even though it isn't open on Sunday) Additionally, we'll likely stop at all of the following:
- Cottage Grove Nursery in West Salem, since we'll be so close
- Christen Farm Nursery in Onalaska
- Garden of Denise Hazen in LaCrosse
- Riverside International Friendship Garden in LaCrosse

If you plan to join the Coulee Carpool Caravan or if you have any questions, please contact Jan Gerke at (507)259-7096, janice.gerke@gmail.com. It promises to be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

On a new topic, several members have expressed interest in doing a tour to nurseries that are not (at least easily) within the scope of a day trip. Most notably, I have heard interest in Winter Greenhouse (Winter, WI) and The Flower Factory (Stoughton, WI). These could be set up as **overnight carpools** (say Friday/Saturday) or perhaps as smaller bus tours (depending on price). I'm interested in your thoughts and whether you would consider doing something like this (in the future, probably not this year). Also, if we were to plan a more distant tour, when (month, days of week) would you prefer that we do it? Please get Jan any and all feedback you have for use in future planning.

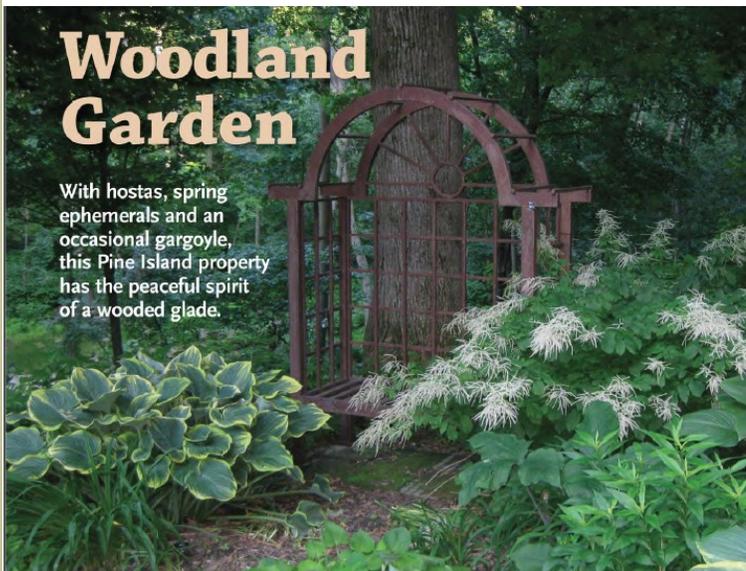
I look forward to seeing you all in a garden somewhere this summer!

Jan Gerke



Woodland Garden

With hostas, spring ephemerals and an occasional gargoyle, this Pine Island property has the peaceful spirit of a wooded glade.



The *Northern Gardener* magazine has a wonderful four page article written by Terry Yockey, on **Turkey Run Hostas**, hosta haven of our very own Jean and Gerry Meyer, in their May/June edition. To access the article, go to the [Northern Gardener website](#), click on the online magazine, then check the Table of Contents (arrow on left side), the article is "Woodland Garden" on page 43. The *Northern Gardener* magazine is a publication of the MN State Horticulture Society.

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION NEEDS YOU!



June 13-15, 2013, Sheraton, Brookfield (Milwaukee) Hotel

Educational! Entertaining!! Great opportunities to meet hostaholics of all ages and experience!!! Come to the AHS Convention! See the website www.2013ahsconvention.com for complete details.

Tour 10 gorgeous private gardens, one public garden (Boerner Botanical) where admission is charged, sustain yourself at one lunch and two banquets, learn more about shade gardening from four renowned speakers, put your feet up at hostatality gatherings at days end—all this (and more!) for \$ 139 registration. Convention nametags guarantee passage to these events. Check the website for dates and times.

Help is still needed to make this year's convention a success. Here is a brief summary of what we could use help with. Thanks for considering:

- Registered Convention attendees and volunteers

- Help with Meet & Greet: (6/13, Thurs. 8pm-9pm)
Meet/Greet attendees and matched to fly-in guests with transportation to the garden tours on Fri & Sat.
- Leaf show prep and entry
⇒ Thur. 5pm-7:30pm
⇒ Thur. 7:30pm-10pm
⇒ Fri. 6am-7:30am
- Auction plant receiving
⇒ 6/13, Thurs. 5 pm-9 pm,
⇒ 6/14 Fri 7am-9am & 4pm-5pm
- Silent auction helpers
⇒ Fri. 4pm-7pm
⇒ Sat. 11:00am-1pm
- Hospitality room helpers
⇒ Thur. 9pm-11pm
⇒ Fri. 9pm-11pm
⇒ Sat. 9pm-12am
- Radler and Sievert Garden Hosts: 6/14, Fri. 8 am-5 pm, 6/15 Sat. 7 am-11:30 am.
- Help on Thur. night with speakers
- Banquet set up
- Hosta show room: (6/14, Fri. 11 am-3 pm & 6/15, Sat. 9 am-12noon)
- Help with vender set up and tear down 6/12, Wed, 6pm-8pm, 6/13, Thurs. 8 am-noon 6/15, Sat. Thur. 8am-10am

Volunteers: Many of the tasks are broken up into small time slots. For questions and to sign up, please contact Convention Chairs: Tom Micheletti (tom@hostapatch.com) or Jack Barta (jbarta@wi.rr.com) For all the details see the email sent mid May by Cindy Tomashek.

Even with this rotten spring weather, we managed to have another successful event. Our sales totaled over \$9000.00 before expenses. All the members hard work made this possible! You all made my job easy. As this was my last year as sales chairman, I encourage one of you to consider taking on this task. You will get a amazing amount of help! Thanks again to everyone, Denny Bowe



Kudos for hosting a lovely Spring Open House that provided the perfect ending for a dismal day! It may have been cold and drizzly outside, but the warmth and excited chatter of friends in you garage warmed us up faster than rays of sunshine!! Of course the munchies, crunchies, and ice cream served as perfect background for the first green hostas many of us have seen outside the sale last weekend. I don't think one could ask for much more than that to bring joy to our minds, hearts, and stomachs!!! For those who weren't there, we dutifully scarfed up all the hostas, door prizes, and food without you...but you were missed. And, Mona, I sincerely thank you for having the three 'Liberty' hostas in splendor out to greet us as we arrived. They looked so spectacular that I decided to borrow them until mine come up...made you look, didn't I?! For SOGHS, Jeanne Truestedt

Dear Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE Donors,

It is with sincere gratitude I write in appreciation of your generous gift in support of my education. As a non-traditional student coming back to school has been a challenge to balance work and education. With your support I will be able to cut down on my work hours in the winter to focus more on my studies.

To me this gift is more than monetary; it is a display of the importance of education for all. By providing resources like this to deserving students you have shown that intellectual progression does not have to be limited by ones economic status. Furthermore, your gift shows that the Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE MN values the power of education and the importance of its effect on society.

There are no words to describe my gratitude for the interest you have shown in my personal and academic well being. I promise to work hard to maintain my excellent academic standing. The generosity you have shown towards my education will not be a lesson forgotten as I re-enter the workforce with a new education to share with society.

Again, thank you for your kind and selfless contribution on my behalf.

Sincerely, Ryan Brick

For those of you who need a reminder or two about what the SOGHS website has to offer, here are a few of the highpoints from our webmaster himself. Take it away, Gerry!

1. specific Shades of Green Hosta Society business and information is found on the "**Member's Only**" page. Enter the username "2013soghs" the password is also "2013soghs" (without the quotation marks, of course.)

2. Within the members' only section you will find member links where you can access club information. One of the key links is the **Newsletter** link which allows you to access all of the newsletters for the last two years. If you lose your newsletter, or want to check a back-level edition, you have ready access to those newsletters.

3. Another key link is the **Membership List** which provides a list of current SOGHS members. This list contains personal member information and should be used with CAUTION and CARE. It's for member use for SOGHS business and NOT TO SHARE with others.

4. **Links** is great source of hosta information and is found on the **Links** webpage. It contains information about our national and regional hosta organizations. It's a quick reference to some of their specific websites that are referenced often, including the AHS and MRHS conventions. Then there are a number of links to Retail and Wholesale Vendors which provides easy access for you to look at what hostas are currently available, what they look like, what the prices are, AND even provides some good retail sources for you to order hostas.

Hope this helps; check back often for updates! Gerry Meyer

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



SOGHS 2013 Calendar of Events

June 8	SOGHS Bus Trip
June 13-15	AHS National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
June 19 and 20	Member's only garden tour (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM)
June 23	Carpool 11:30 am from Shopko South
July 11-13	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Lisle, IL
July 16 and 17	Member's only garden tour (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM)
July 18	Rochester Flower and Garden Club tours
July 22-28	Olmsted County Fair (don't forget the hosta leaf show!)
July 24	Master Gardener garden tours
September 7	Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction
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