



The Hosta Leaf

June/July 2011

Volume 6

Issue 3



OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN



Happy Warm Weather Everyone!!

What a year this has been. May was like March and the past few days of June are very reminiscent of August with the heat index climbing out of control. The good news is that all of the moisture we received last year and the fantastic snow cover we had over the winter provided us with very happy, healthy plants to start the gardening season with. Our cold, wet Spring, while not pleasant for us, gave our plants plenty of water to kick start the season again this year.

With the warmer weather, it is truly amazing to walk through my gardens each day. Plants growing multiple inches per day is real progress and so fun to enjoy. I relish the daily walks through my gardens, ensuring all of the new growth of my climbing "friends" make it onto the support structures properly so they can continue their vigorous growth rates. I have to say I am dismayed at how quickly my peonies are going once they bloom, they're beautiful for just a few days before they shed their gorgeous flowers.

While the weather presented a challenge for us this year with our plant sale being earlier in the year and Spring not arriving until very recently, we were fortunate to have had a very successful plant sale again this year. The amount of volunteer time that pours into our plant sale in so many ways is absolutely amazing. Our organization wouldn't be what it is if it were not for the very generous souls that make up our club, you are an incredible lot of people!! THANK YOU to all of the people that volunteered to make our sale a success, your contributions are what fuel our organization. I am SO proud of each and every one of you in ensuring our sale was a smashing success!!

Many thanks to Tim Farnham, our Treasurer, for keeping our books so up-to-date. We brought in \$9381.59 from the plant sale!! This is a substantial amount of money, especially considering the size of our organization. Thank you to ALL of the people that volunteered to make our plant sale a success. I encourage you to read Jason Leigh's recap of the plant sale for more details.

We are off to a fast start to a very fun summer. The container workshop was held Friday evening, June 3rd. The workshop was sold out!! Hats off to Karen Noltee, Cindy Tomashek, and Jean Meyer for their successful leadership of this workshop. Karen was the originator of the idea and took it to the board this year for our approval. Cindy very graciously offered her garage for the workshop along with plenty of diggings of moss from her woods to help dress out containers! Jean Meyer was very involved with Karen in

implementing the workshop in addition to Vickie LeCocq and Yvonne Landgren for helping to get containers prepped to be planted. Cris Peterson brought the most mouth-watering ice cream cake she made at Cold Stone Creamery just for the workshop attendees, yum!! Betty Olson was a real trouper helping Jean Meyer out with the sale of supplemental mini-plants to help workshop attendees fill out their containers. It was a truly excellent workshop that I hope to see repeated in future years!!

Jan Gerke, our Tours director, has been working hard on a number of tour options for all of you. Our first touring opportunity will be with the annual bus trip on June 11th where there will be not only fantastic shopping opportunities but beautiful gardens to tour. We have our first member's garden tour on Wednesday, June 15th. This is followed by tours of more members' gardens on Thursday, July 14th.

If this weren't enough, Terry Yockey, our featured speaker at our February meeting and a fellow SOGHS member, has been coordinating with fellow gardeners in RedWing to ensure we have an action packed day on Saturday, July 23rd to visit 4 gardens (yes, you read that correctly, four!!). Thank you Terry!! This is one car pool opportunity you will not want to miss out one. Thank you again Jan for all of your work on ensuring our members have plenty of garden touring opportunities this year!

This is the year when you really get your money's worth for your membership. As if the container workshop, bus trip, member garden tour opportunities, and the RedWing car pool garden tour event aren't enough, we're offering a workshop on Saturday, July 16th to help you prepare your hosta leaves for a hosta leaf show. The obvious opportunity to enter one or multiple of your hosta leaves in a leaf show is this year at the Olmsted County Fair. This will give all of us who participate a leg up for next year when our club hosts the Midwest Regional Hosta Society (MRHS) convention, how exciting!!

By participating in the hosta leaf preparation workshop and choosing to show our leaves at the Olmsted County Fair this year, we will all be able to gain a substantial amount of knowledge and experience that will only accelerate our club next year for the MRHS convention we're hosting. We'll ensure there are a plethora of leaf entries for the hosta leaf judging portion of the convention next year. Let's each do what we can to continue to uphold our club's image as an energetic, enthusiastic group!!

Happy Summer and Tours to each and every one of you!!

Kim Greene, SOGHS President

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



A Hosta Tale of Woe...an update on our Hosta Display Garden at RCTC

I could've titled this "Buried Alive" but thought that was a little too grim! In fact, our losses are less than I imagined a few weeks ago, but there are a few plants missing that perhaps cannot find their way through the very thick mulch. I spent over 2 hours digging through mulch, weeding and gingerly pulling mulch away from plants that were smothered. The good news is, I found many of the original labels in the process, so getting the labels placed correctly will not be so difficult. Check out the picture of H. 'Journey's End'...it was buried under at least 8" of mulch! Also, check out H. 'Baby Bunting'...a couple of the plants were completely buried.



There are also surprisingly good looking specimens, like H. 'Sum and Substance', 'Earth Angel', 'June' and 'Blue Mouse Ears'. These are all located in an area that didn't get the thick application of mulch, along with a few others (mostly the Hosta of the Year plants). Since there's no need to weed (that thick mulch is doing a great job of suppressing the weeds) and I don't have the new permanent labels in hand yet, there's not a Weed and Feed scheduled for June. As soon as there's a need for a few more hands, I'll let everyone know. Cindy



Need some exercise and want to be part of something grand and historic? Mayowood Gardens at the historic Mayowood home are in need of volunteers. Volunteers are essential to keeping the gardens and grounds in good condition for visitors to enjoy. Volunteers are also needed for the restoration of the historic hillside gardens. If you are interested, contact Jane Y at

Join us for some fun and help publicize SOGHS and Hostas!
FIRST TIME OFFERED – "HOW TO SHOW LIKE A PRO"

HOSTA CUT LEAF WORKSHOP,

Saturday, July 16, 1:30 pm, Building 40, Olmsted County Fair Grounds
FREE! All area gardeners welcome!

WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY CINDY TOMASHEK, SENIOR JUDGE,
AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY.

With a few tips and tricks from a seasoned leaf show exhibitor and certified American Hosta Society Leaf Show Judge, you can discover how to best display hosta leaves in the upcoming Olmsted County Fair Hosta Cut Leaf Division. The workshop will cover leaf selection, cutting, conditioning/cleaning, and staging of hosta leaves for exhibition.

SPONSORED BY SHADES OF GREEN HOSTA SOCIETY OF SOUTH-EAST, MN Picture (left) was taken at the 2009 Olmsted County Fair.

Shades of Green Hosta Society 5th Annual Hosta Photo Contest 2011

Calling all shutterbugs! Share your favorite garden photos and win fabulous prizes.

Categories and corresponding numbers:

1. Most Beautiful Hosta—in member's own garden
2. Most Beautiful Hosta—in tour & other gardens
3. Gardens & Landscapes
4. Flowers & Foliage
5. Garden Accents & Oddities
6. Critters, Creatures, People
7. Novice – Never entered before? Not a lot of photography experience? This category is for you!

Judging Criteria: Impact, Creativity, Composition, Originality, Technical Quality, Humor

Entries: Each photo submitted must include:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Category | B. Member's name | C. Title of the picture |
| D. Name of pictured hosta(s) | | E. Location of the photo |

(Suggestion: In naming your digital pictures consider a name such as:

3_solsen_big n bold_sum and substance_my parents yard
[category number] [yourname] [title] [hosta name] [location]

Rules:

- Photos can only be entered into one category. Members may submit up to three (3) photos in each category.
- This contest is open SOGHS members only.
- **Each picture submitted must include an identified hosta.**
- The photo must be taken by the person submitting it. (You cannot submit photos taken by another person.)
- Photos must be taken in the 2011 calendar year.
- Cropping of photos is allowed but photos submitted cannot be otherwise digitally edited or retouched. You can set the scene for your hosta photo—it does not have to be spontaneous.
- All photos submitted become the property of SOGHS and will not be returned. Copyright of the image remains the property of the photographer, but SOGHS retains the right to use the photo for SOGHS meetings and promotional materials.
- Photos that do not comply with category criteria will be eliminated.
- All entries must be received by **October 15, 2010** at midnight.

Judging:

The winners will be selected by the SOGHS membership at the November 2011 general meeting. The photos will be viewed as a slideshow and members will have ballots to choose a winner in each group as well as a grand prize winner. Winning entries will be posted on the website and in the newsletter. The Photo Contest Committee may eliminate categories with few entries, separate categories with a large number of entries, or pre-select photos to fit in the time frame available at the general meeting, as needed.

To Enter:

Send your pictures digitally by email to Joan Till-Born at rbjt@hotmail.com as a .jpg, .tif or .bmp file with 300 or greater resolution, if possible. Send your printed photos or photo CDs to Joan Till-Born, SOGHS Photo Contest, 4053 70th Ave NW, Byron, MN 55920 282-2917 or call Joan with questions at (507) 282-2917. Enter early and often - don't wait until the deadline to submit entries.



Touring SOGHS Style-2011

Wednesday, June 15th 5:00 – 8:30pm

Alternate day: Saturday June 18th, 3:00-5:00pm

(see Jean and Gerry Meyer's description for additional times at their gardens)

Susy and Rick Olsen, 1427 15th Ave NW, Rochester, MN

Directions: From Hwy 52 North, take the 19th St exit. Going east merge onto Assisi Dr/11th Ave at the stop lights. Turn right at the next stop lights onto 14th St (look for the first SOGHS sign). Turn right on 15th Ave. Enter the Olsen yard on the garden pathway on the north side of the house to find the secret garden entrance.

Description: In a word or two, the Rick and Susy Olsen garden is home-grown 'Evolving Whimsy'. Fairies, gnomes, glass art sculptures, archways for the big and small, swings and benches, secret nooks, fountains, and even a 'toe pond' for the gand-babies are here and there between the green and growing. Surrounded by more trees than might be reasonable, hostas and shade-loving plants happily find a home. When the sun goes down the whimsy becomes even more enchanting. The fireflies are joined by the lights of the many luminary sculptures. Find the secret garden entrance by taking the north garden pathway!

Linda and Brad Brech, 7075 Mesabi Ct NW, Rochester, MN

Directions: From the intersection of 55th St NW and 18th Ave, head North on 18th Ave for 1.5 miles. Just past Greenwood Plants Nursery, turn right on Chippewa Dr. Driving past 5 homes on the right, you'll find Mesabi Ct NW on the right. They are the first driveway on the right. Tall pine trees frame the property.

Alternatively, driving north on Hwy 52, take the 75th St NW exit. At the intersection of 75th St NW (County Rd 14) and 18th Ave NW turn right. Turn left on the first road on the left (Chippewa Dr). As you drive down Chippewa (past Rick and Mona Keehn's home), you will pass 5 homes on the right. Turn right on Mesabi Ct NW. They are the first driveway on the right, framed by tall pine trees.

Description: A wooded lot with 80-100 year old oak and black walnut (the "Minnesota Palm") trees shade the Brech property. Linda's love for gardening was nurtured by her "Nana" who helped establish many perennials and hostas after building in 1988. Brad has provided most of the muscle power on the large projects over the years. Recycled cedar decking provides a backyard canvas that changes with the seasons along with the birds that come to dine at their feeders year round. Five bluebird houses made by their oldest daughter for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project provide rental housing for the migrating bluebirds and wrens. Cherry trees, a raspberry plot, and a vegetable garden create a tasty-fresh produce market. A sandlot volleyball court, fire pit, and tree swing provide entertainment for friends and family. Watch for the garden art interspersed for the the summer season.

Jean and Gerry Meyer, 10236 95th Ave NW, Pine Island, MN

Directions: Take Hwy 52 North from Rochester about 4.3 miles north from 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 is sprawled 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.

If you can't make it on Wednesday June 15th, their garden will also be open Saturday, June 18th, 1:00-7:00pm and Sunday, June 19th, 1:00-5:00pm. More information is available on their website www.turkeyrunhostas.com

Any questions should be directed to Jan Gerke at (507)259-7096, jan_gerke@yahoo.com

FOR ALL DATES, WATCH FOR THE SOGHS MEMBER-ONLY TOUR SIGNS

Keeping Deer out of your Hostas and your hostas out of the Deer!

Featured Article By Gordon Haubenschild
and Jan Gerke

If you didn't plant your garden as a deer feeding station, then deer tracks and nibbled hosta plants cause even the most patient gardener to throw up her hands in exasperation and cry "dear o deer" or other expletives! As you know, deer browsing can cause considerable damage, and they can be difficult to deter. Even the strongest deer chemical repellents don't always work long-term and have to be reapplied periodically. Our deer deterrent recipe was to install an electrified deer fence to protect our hostas. How well did it work for us? Great actually!,,,, err after a few trials and errors. Now we have our friendly deer herds trained to enjoy their side of the fence while we enjoy our hostas and gardens on our side. (smile). It may be more effective, cheaper and cause fewer headaches in the long run. Seriously, it works! Electric fences are psychological barriers rather than physiological barriers. Whole herds of deer can be repelled by an electric fence when one animal is shocked. Bulletins from Penn State and other agricultural agencies explain that you need just one or two wires that the deer will casually walk into. (continued on page 6)



Membership Moments

"The excitement is growing" is a catch phrase often used within SOGHS - and grow we have! Since our last newsletter we have acquired 18 new members and several renewals. Our membership now stands at 206! The highest membership we have ever had is 210, so I am confi-

dent that we will break a new record this year. That is all due to the enthusiasm our members have in everything we do. It is infectious - in a good kind of way.

At our April meeting we acquired our first student member, Devin Stephens. We are hoping that we will continue to attract younger members to help us keep growing.

Please welcome Devin and the following new members as you meet them, and encourage them to get involved in all of the great things Shades of Green has to offer!

A great big welcome to: Deb Thomford, Jeanne Buros, Genella Mussell, Mary Jo Rucker, Shelli Kult, Rose M. Napoli, Jane Appen-Anderson, Murl and Diane Miller, Deanna Nash, Jo Car-ryer, Leon and Helen Thicke, Julie Senska, Kris Hust, Wayne and Joleta Smith.

Thank you for your part in helping SOGHS grow.

Mona Keehn Membership Chair

Hosta Sale Summary 2011



Dear members, just wanted to send a little update about our annual Hosta Sale. Our profits from the sale were approximately \$9400, a great amount, but down about \$1000 from previous years. Not surprising giving our cool and wet spring weather. It was nice that the weather the day of the sale held off long enough for the early shoppers to get their plants and get out before it started to rain. I would like to thank everyone for their time and efforts to make the sale a success, especially those on the Hosta Sale committee. Without their time, dedication, and organization, our sale would not be what it is. Also, a special thanks again has to go out to the food committee for working so hard keeping everyone fed and hydrated, and in a good mood!

I would like to encourage all members to start thinking about digging/dividing plants this fall, in preparation for next year's sale and overwintering them. This is a great time of year to do it for the plants, and you don't have to worry about your plants not looking as nice during the summer. I dug approximately 100 plants last fall in preparation of moving, and I believe there were only two pots that didn't survive the winter. The pots were on a cement slab, covered with shredded leaves, some landscape fabric, and then plenty of snow! Digging/dividing in the fall helps to take out the variable of how early/late our Spring weather is in relation to the day of our sale. I know there were several comments made this year about the decline in plant material available for this year's sale, and I think doing the work in the fall will help with our plant numbers. Remember, this plant sale can only succeed with member donations. We need as many members as possible to donate plants to be successful, not simply rely on a select few who donate numerous plants each year.

Lastly, we are still looking for a Chair or Co-Chairs for the Hosta Sale next year. Make sure you let Kim Greene or myself know if you are interested. Thanks again for all your help with the sale.

Jason Leigh

SUMMER SOGHS GARDEN TOUR LINE-UP for JULY 2011 Overview

Thursday, July 14th and Saturday July 16th

Denny and Sherrie Bowe, 5724 Salem Rd Ct SW, Rochester, MN

Description: Although this farm has been in Sherrie's family for many generations, Sherrie and Denny moved into the old farmhouse just five 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.

Paul and Karen Koeller, 424 25th St NW, Rochester, MN

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 flowers, a vegetable garden, and small pond with waterfall.

Barb and Ed Armbruster, 1200 NE 81st St, Rochester, MN

Description: Barb and Ed's first hostas were inexpensive varieties purchased to fill a shady spot, soon followed by more varieties planted under their crabapples to avoid a mowing nightmare. As their appreciation for hosta diversity continued to grow (and they needed more space to put their SOGHS acquisitions), they started adding new plants down near the barn, where years of accumulated horse manure were going to waste growing beautiful weeds! The two latter areas a now fenced to keep the deer out that, unfortunately, finally discovered them. They estimate their hosta collection to be at around 120 varieties, unfortunately not all of which are labeled.

Caravan to Red Wing Saturday, July 23rd

Visit these four gardens in Red Wing: Becky Shaefer, Peg and Ray Hansen, Terry and Steve Yockey, Jody Ohlhaber

Caravan Notes: After visiting the gardens, (if desired) carpools may visit local nurseries and garden centers such as Reuvers, Sargents, Stockholm WI nursery, etc. This is sure to be a wonderful day of traveling and touring. There will be a sign-up for those who want to participate and those who want to drive. If you know you are 'game,' please email jan_gerke@yahoo.com to sign up. If you can drive, include how many passengers you can accommodate. If you're not sure, feel free to show up at 8:00am on July 23rd in the Shopko North parking lot to join or form a carpool. Share the cost of gas and have some fun visiting our Red Wing neighbors.

**More details (directions and descriptions) will follow soon.
Watch the SOGHS website.**

Continued from page 5

Keeping Deer out of your Hostas and your hostas out of the Deer!

BUT, there is more to it... a deer can easily jump over an electric fence or run through them without even seeing them, so they need to be 'trained' to not jump over the fence.

Deer have a heightened sense of smell, so using peanut butter or molasses on tin strips or pie pans will attract them and slow them down. The tasty treat will prompt the deer to touch the electric fence with their nose or tongue, receiving a safe but intense shock. That will cause them to back up and leave the area. If one deer gets shocked, he will let all of his buddies and children know they don't want to go over there, that place hurts! After one or two encounters, your deer will look for other sources of food. Hence your hostas are safe and sound at least from the deer!

For website references and Jan and Gordon's step by step instructions, check out the SOGHS website at www.soghs.org.

SOGHS Spring Open House

About 70 SOGHS members toured my Rochester garden on either Thursday, May 26 or Sat., May 28, which, thankfully, both turned out to be gorgeous days! The silent auction on Thursday netted \$137 (the lucky winners got GREAT bargains on some terrific hostas and garden-related goodies) and we gave away several terrific door prizes!!

Many thanks to the donors for making it a very special evening: Van Wade/Wade & Gatton Nursery, Barb & Ed Armbruster, Doris Amundsen, Jeanne Truestedt, Larry and Pam Schmidt, Tricia Torrens-Burton, Linda Brech, Denny and Sherrie Bowe. Because of your generosity, SOGHS keeps growing strong!

Also, thanks to fellow SOGHS Board members who helped keep things running smooth: Tricia Torrens-Burton (for all those great snacks!!), Mona Keehn, Jeanne Truestedt, and Jan Gerke. SOGHS volunteers are THE BEST!

Cindy Tomashek, Founder

CONVENTION CHATTER 2012



Our next convention planning meeting will begin our ONE YEAR COUNTDOWN! Join June and I on Saturday, July 16, 9:00 am (location TBA). We will be fresh from taking notes at the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Madison, WI and will discuss what worked and what didn't (if anything!), and what we would like to incorporate or avoid at our convention in July 2012. Also, June and I have put together a time line that will be sent to committee members soon (if not by the time this publication is available). On June 9 we're making a road trip to Waseca to pick up our 500 convention plants, H. 'Candy Kisses', and will gather committee members as available on June 10 at Jason Leigh's to pot up the plugs into the pots they'll be grown on in until next summer. The dirt's gonna fly!

If you haven't submitted a convention t-shirt order yet, you can download it from the web site and submit it to Tricia Torrens-Burton with a check for \$10/shirt (payable to SOGHS with a note in the Memo "Convention T-shirt 2012).

It's not too late to jump on the 2012 convention bandwagon and get involved! The excitement is growing!!

2012 MRHS Convention T-Shirt Order Form

The convention committee decided to go with a small chest logo (nothing on the back of the shirt) to keep things clean looking and more appealing. The color is as shown (dark sage). Unisex sizing – S, M, L, XL, XXL (larger sizes available at additional cost)

Click here for spec sheet on the 100% Cotton Shirt:
<http://69.25.139.97/cs/CatalogBrowser?todo=ss&productId=2000>

(Color is called "Prairie Dust" by Gildan)

Please return the lower portion of this order form **with check payable to SOGHS/2012 Convention**, to **Tricia Torrens-Burton, 657 White Birch Court, Oronoco, MN 55960**

Quantity Size x \$10 each



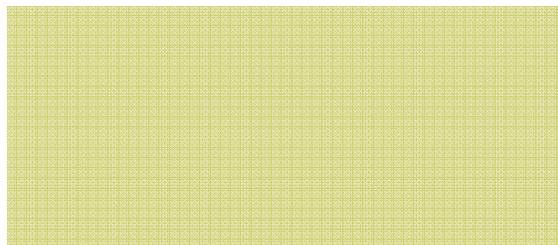
Your name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Orders are being taken for the straw hats with the SOGHS logo on the band. A few hats will be available on the June 11th bus tour for immediate delivery. The price is \$11 and it will be first come first serve to get a hat to wear on the tour. Orders can be placed as well. On the tour you will have an opportunity to share what kind of logo wear you might be interested in purchasing. Bring your ideas! *Jeanne Truestedt, Member fundraising*



Susy Olsen
SOGHS Newsletter Editor
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SOGHS 2011 Calendar of Events

- June 11 SOGHS bus trip - garden tours and hosta buying opportunities.
(details within)
- June 15 SOGHS member garden tour for members and guests (5:00pm - 8:30pm)
(details within)
- June 18 Alternate date for member tours
(details within)
- June 22-25 AHS 2011 National Convention, Marlborough, MA
(details within)
- July 7-9 MRHS 2011 Convention, Madison, WI
(details within)
- July 14 SOGHS member garden tour for members and guests (5:00pm - 8:30pm)
(details to come)
- July 16 Convention planning meeting, Rick & Mona Keehn's home (9:00am - 11:00am)
(details within)
- July 16 Workshop: "Preparing Hosta Leaves for a leaf Show" by Cindy Tomashek,
1:30pm at the Fair Grounds, Building 40
- July 21 Rochester Flower and Garden Club Tour
(details to come)
- July 23 SOGHS member garden carpool tour for members and guests,
Redwing Gardens (8:00am - noon)
(details to come)
- July 25-29 Olmsted County Fair - Hosta Leaf Show -
(see Fair Book for details)