



The Hosta Leaf

November December 2013

Volume 8 Issue 6

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Member of the American Hosta Society www.hosta.org
 Midwest Regional Hosta Society <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org/>



Happy Fall Everyone!

The weather we had this past week was absolutely amazing, it's hard to believe it really is Fall. It's kind of a sad time of the year though as our beloved hostas are looking pretty rough with the cold snap we had earlier. We'll have to settle for reminiscing with pictures of how beautiful or favorite perennials are until they poke through the ground next Spring.

I'm very excited to have so many new faces on the board of directors. We had a number of officers who had full-filled two terms of their board positions, and therefore weren't able to continue on in their positions. I would like to thank each of you for your service on the SOGHS board: Cindy Tomashek, Joan Till-Born, Susy Olsen, Gerry Meyer, and Jeanne Truestedt, you will be missed! I would like to extend a very warm welcome

to Linda Brech as our new Secretary/Historian, Carrie Schroeder as Membership Fundraising, and Norrie MacIlraith as Newsletter Editor. There are write-ups for each of our new officers in this edition of the newsletter so you can get to know our new board members a bit better.

Additionally, I would like to thank Kelly Tweite for stepping forward to take on the plant sale assistant/dig coordinator role. If you would like to help Kelly out with digs for our annual plant sale, I'm certain she would be very grateful for the help. Susy Olsen is taking on the workshop coordinator position and WOW, has she ever been busy! Check out the workshops she already has planned on page 5. Contact Susy with any ideas you have and if you'd like to assist with any of the workshops.

We are still in need of volunteers for the board positions VP Programs/Education and Web-

master. Please let me know if you're interested in either of these positions, I'd love to you have on the board!

We're going to start the new year off with a new event, the "Snowflake Gala". The idea for this event was born this past December during our board of directors Christmas party that Rick and Mona Keehn so graciously host at their home every year. This will be a great way to kick off the new year with an evening of great conversation, delicious food, and door prizes you won't want to miss out on. Save the date, Thursday January 23rd, starting at 6:00 PM. Check out the "Snowflake Gala" article for more details.

I'm looking forward to an exciting 2014! If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please contact Mona as we have an exciting year ahead of us. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the "Snowflake Gala" on January 23rd!!

Kim Greene

MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS



Sadly, another gardening season has come to an end. The recent hard frost has made sure of that. However, it is never too early to think about SOGHS in 2014. As a board member, I can assure you

that there are exciting things to come. October 8th I sent an email to members that need to renew memberships for 2014. If you did not receive that email, you can assume that your dues are paid up through 2014. If you did receive the email, I would greatly ap-

preciate a response. Thanks to everyone that has renewed their memberships. Enjoy the rest of the Fall season, and I look forward to seeing you all next year.
 Mona Keehn

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 TillBorn
rbjtb@hotmail.com
- **Treasurer**
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- **Plant Sale**
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- **Member fundraising**
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jeanne@truedstedt.org
- **Webmaster**
Gerry Meyer
gerrymeyer@att.net
- **Newsletter Editor**
Susy Olsen
ga2hafun@gmail.com

WELCOME
NEW SOGHS BOARD MEMBERS

2nd VP Programs/Education
Secretary/Historian:

Linda Brech

I joined SOGHS in September 2010, just as both daughters were now in college, I had time to grow my interests. I have always enjoyed gardening. My mother's mom (Nana) had beautiful gardens & provided me with many varieties of perennials

Hosta Hot-Spot for the month...

Knecht's Nurseries and Landscaping established in 1988, sells trees, perennial- including a nice selection of hostas, annuals and provide landscaping help. They have over 30,000 trees, shrubs, and perennials and over 1100 different varieties. Their acres of beautiful property boast display gardens ready for you to stroll.

Knecht's Nurseries and Landscaping,
1601 Hwy 19 West, Northfield, MN



when we built our home. I enjoy a variety of Hostas, unique companion plants & interspersing the space with garden art. I have learned so MUCH since joining.

Linda has been actively assisting the newsletter editor for the last couple of years by sending out the hard copies of the newsletter. Thank you Linda for agreeing to be nominated for this position.

Membership Fundraising:

Carrie Schroeder

I just recently moved into a new house in Elgin devoid of hosta plant life. My summer was spent prepping the yard for future projects -



trimming trees, ripping out bushes, removing the tool shed. Hopefully next spring will be conducive to planting hosta along with establishing a square foot veggie garden. My favorite hosta are the ginormous varieties, although I am pretty sure my tiny city lot isn't big enough for all those wonderful XL ladies & gents!

**2nd Vice Presiden/
Program/Education:** PENDING
Webmaster: PENDING

(Continued on page 6)



**Harshbarger
Hosta Society**
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

will be sponsoring the
2014 AHS Convention

June 11 thru June 14

optional garden tours:
June 15th.

The event will be held at
the Marriott Hotel on
Collins Road NE.
More detail will be coming.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION

"HOSTAS BY THE BAY"

The Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeast Wisconsin WILL BE HOSTING THE MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION "HOSTAS BY THE BAY" IN GREEN BAY FROM JUNE 26 - 28, 2014

The schedule of activities will include tours of six fabulous gardens with a drive-yourself format, a cut leaf show, an afternoon tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden with a tailgate evening supper followed by THE HOSTA AUCTION back at the hotel. Vendors are confirmed to be available for the purchase of Hosta plants, conifers and yard art, as well as our raffle table of other garden treasures.

An optional trip to Door County for a fish boil is also in the playbook.

The lineup of seminar speakers includes local and nationally known experts who will bring the latest news about Hostas and their teammate plants.

Contact the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at (920) 494-7300 and be sure to mention **MHRS Convention** to get the special rate of \$99.00 per night, plus tax. You will be assured a room for the festivities. A breakfast buffet each morning is included.

For further information go to the Green & Gold's website <http://greenandgoldhosta.org/2014-convention.html>



2013 HSG Seed Auction for BADITC

Hosta Seed Growers will hold a Seed Auction again this year.

Bob Axmear has agreed to hold the auction on the Hosta Library.

The auction will be held from Saturday, November 30th to Saturday, December 7th.

All proceeds raised by the auction will go to Building A Dream In The Country.

<http://www.buildingadreaminthecountry.com/fundraisers.php>

Send information about seed donations to rohseeditor@gmail.com or renaldo75@hotmail.com. Please include as much information about the parent plants as you can, especially if they are from your hybridizing program. Include labeled photos if you have them available.

Currently, BADITC has raised \$140,200 of the \$200,000 needed. An interest free loan has been received so that the goal of \$150,000 has been met and building can begin. Many in-kind donations have come in since the announcement was made. The hope is that the Spece family can be in their new home before Christmas.

Let's help make this happen for Josh and his family!!

Contact Pat Gwidt, pathen33@yahoo.com or Judy Sytsma, judysgarden.43@gmail.com.

Time for a Wintery Nap?

By October 9th, we know our garden beds and hostas need a rest. Between the abundance of rain and the lack of it, the slugs and bugs, the squirrels and the digging they do to bury their nuts and dogs that dig around, lay on top of and run through, and the nibbling deer, our hostas need their wintery naps.

This year I am not so sure all of my hostas are ready to call it quits for the year. On many



H. 'Satin Bloomers'



H. 'Blueberry Waffle'



H. 'Blue Jay'



H. 'Sum and Substance'



H. 'Paradigm'



H. 'Guardian Angel'



H. 'Tongue Twister'

the bug and slug 'bites' are minimal, the dried up leaves are few, and they look great.

With this being my final edition as newsletter editor, I thought I would share a few of my autumn beauties.

Here are some snap shots



H. 'Kiwi Full Monte'



H. Bressingham Blue'

from October 9th, highlighting H. 'Sum and Substance' looking her best and H. 'Tongue Twister' showing off her first bloom of the season.

It's been great fun trying to piece together newsletters these past years. Thank you for your compliments, contributions, suggestions, encouragement, and timeliness with each article and edition.

See the article about the role I will play as the Workshop Chair for SOGHS. I hope you find something worth checking out!

Gratefully, Susy Olsen



H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'



OUR HOSPITALITY CHAIR SAYS,

“THANK YOU, THANK YOU!”

Thank you to all members who have brought food for our Hostality table at our meetings. The treats are always yummy and very much appreciated. The generosity of our members is just wonderful!



Thanks, Tricia

Do you have plants in your gardens that you'd like to identify?? Some online resources that may help are here:

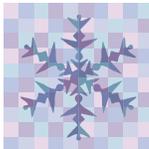
<http://tinyurl.com/fotg-blog>



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. Want to assist? Call with your ideas.



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 grandkids 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 lecture, we will break into small teams to practice what we learn. Want to help? Volunteer your yard, volunteer to organize groups. Email questions.



Summer Workshop: Seed Collection & Planting

This workshop will help you get started with harvesting, marking, and planting hosta seeds and tracking their characteristics and parentage.

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. Experts needed. Email with input.



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



Watch for dates and more details on the web and in upcoming newsletters.

Regional Hosta Society

Sponsored by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society is once again sponsoring the Winter Scientific Meeting. This popular winter event will be held Saturday, January 18, 2014 at the Wyndham Hotel, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL. The hotel has given us a \$79.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations by calling 877-999-3223, and mention the "Midwest Regional Hosta Society Winter Scientific Meeting" to guarantee the rate. Speakers scheduled for 2014 include:

- Bob Olson – A history of the Midwest Hosta Society and its Newsletter
- Glenn Herold – The Genus Liliium (exact topic TBA)
- Jeff Miller – Hosta Sports – When is Enough, Enough?
- Bob Solberg – Hostas of In-Distinction
- Rick Goodenough – Hybridizer's Perspective
- Dave Wanniger – (Horticulturist in Charge, Boerner Botanic Gardens) – Topic TBA
- Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction

Program details, including topics for each speaker's presentation, will be available on the Midwest Regional Hosta Society website as they are finalized.

The program will include a series of three concurrent breakout sessions. These breakout sessions will be presented twice, so attendees will be able to attend two out of the three sessions.

Again this year, there will be a hosta seed silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to help underwrite the cost of the meeting.

The cost of this winter extravaganza is only \$55 per person for Midwest Regional Hosta Society members and \$65 for non-members, and includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. At their option, non-members can apply the \$10 difference in the registration fee to a one-year membership in the MRHS. Please make checks payable to MRHS, and mail with the [registration form](#) to:

Kristine James
523 E. Calhoun Street

Woodstock, IL 60098 **Registrations postmarked after January 6 require a \$10 late registration fee per person.** Questions? Contact Lou Horton (630-293-7735) or email: lehorton85@aUm, 2009 I think.



Newsletter Editor:
Norrie MacIraith
Until retiring from active professional nursing in 2009, Norrie was a PeriOperative Clinical Nurse Specialist

and traveled to troubleshoot Surgical Departments Nationwide. Currently, her focus is one of Integrated Health Practice and providing services through a small home-based business "A Healing Place for Self-Care." A Healing Touch Practitioner, she also combines Therapeutic Horticulture, Meditation Labyrinths, Music, Fabric Art and Colour Therapies with her work.

Norrie has enjoyed gardening much of her life and indulged extensively in volunteering. Here is some of the areas she has contributed:

- Working with Extension Services wherever she lived
- Participating in 4-H (participant growing up and a



club leader 11 years while daughter grew up)

- Serving terms on County Boards in Iowa and Minnesota.
- Becoming a Certified Master Gardener in Iowa 1982-1999, transferring to Minnesota 1999-present, taking Emeritus Status 2013.
- Joining Shades of Green Hosta Society 2012 and is learning about hostas.
- Helping with Rochester Realize Raingardens, receiving the first grant recipient 2009
- Volunteering at Cascade Meadow Wetlands and Environmental Center including speaking and promoting "Planting With Natives"

All this surely makes her a great addition to the board but with her experience as a writer, newsletter editor, and publisher will make her an excellent editor for SOGHS. Welcome Norrie!

More introductions will be coming in the next edition as the final board positions become filled!

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

**Door
Prizes!**

Susy Olsen
SOGHS Newsletter Editor
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SOGHS 2014 Calendar of Events.... Watch for them!



*Meeting Locations Fellowship Hall, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN