

Issue 4

Volume 12

October,
November,
December
2018



Dancing Fountains at Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia, June 2018



Kathy's First AHS Convention Was 'All That'

What a year it has been for hostas! Granted, the weather was quite precarious to start the season (I think we had a full 24 hours of spring before summer set in). But, oh, how the hostas flourished not only here in southeast Minnesota but also all across the country.

This made for a great year to attend my very first American Hosta Society Convention held near Philadelphia, PA. Folks from the Delaware Valley Hosta Society really rolled out the red carpet to celebrate this 50th anniversary convention, "Phifty in Philly." My travel buddy and veteran conventioneer, Mona Keehn, and I arrived Tuesday to take in all the convention had to offer. Unfortunately, the optional Wednesday garden tour was canceled and replaced with a tour of historical landmarks. That certainly was a viable alternative in this history-rich area, but for us hostaholics, we chose to stay back and lend a hand setting up the "Hosta Leaf Room" for the upcoming competition.

It was a real pleasure to meet new hosta enthusiasts, and what better way than to work shoulder-to-shoulder on something hosta related? Thanks to some coaxing from a few SOGHS friends (You know who you are ;-), I enrolled in the Hosta Judges Clinic and used this newly found knowledge to clerk at the convention's leaf show. It was a great learning opportunity and effective way to immerse myself in the convention experience. I highly recommend it!

The rest of the week was filled with beautiful garden tours, educational opportunities and celebrity sightings. Whether it was passing Mark Zilis at Mill Fleurs garden or witnessing Warren I. Pollock receive the Lifetime Service Award, I admit to being more than a little star struck and tongue tied. Other award recipients at the convention were: Bev and Dave Stegeman, winners of the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award; Steven Greene, awarded the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award; and Bob Solberg, awarded the Benedict Garden Performance medal for H. 'Curly Fries'.

(President's Letter by Kathy Rustad, continued on Page 2)

SOGHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As we start to get our flowerbeds and Hosta gardens ready for fall, winter and the long wait until next spring, let's not forget about membership renewal in this great organization. October will be our last regular meeting of the year. It would be a great time to come prepared to renew for another year or even two.

The benefits of belonging and continuing as a member have been told many times in this newsletter. Our annual plant sale was held in June with great success. There have been numerous tours and plenty of buying opportunities. The Founders' Day picnic was a success. It was a



fun gathering of Hosta-loving folks, and the opportunity was there to add to your Hosta gardens with a silent and live auction.

Member general meetings always offer an educational component. Among other things, your membership fees help with speaker honorariums. This enables us to bring knowledgeable Hosta speakers from across the Midwest to our meetings. But then, many of you are aware of this. That is why you have chosen to be members.

Our membership stands at 168. Of those

168, approximately 86 members (single or family) are due for renewal in 2019. Let's try to get this done on or before the February meeting. I will be present to take your dues at the October meeting. And really, it's not that much: \$10. /yr. single and \$15. /yr. family. That's a lot of value for a small amount, a deal hard to find nowadays.

Genella Mussell (Membership)
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

The auctions at the Founders' Day picnic raised \$1,465 for our coffers.

And lastly, for those of you who have not yet attended an AHS Convention, I whole-heartedly recommend that you attend next year. Better yet, it will be hosted right next door in Green Bay, WI, June 12-15, 2019, as a joint convention with the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. Make plans early for what is sure to be a convention worth attending. Checkout the website at: www.ahs2019event.org

We Had a State Fair Exhibit, Thanks to Jean and Gerry Meyer

Thanks to the hard work, creativity and leadership of Jean and Gerry Meyer, Shades of Green Hosta Society hosted a Hosta display at the Minnesota State Fair August 23-24. Located in the Horticulture building, the Hosta display caught Fair goers' attention with the many variety of leaves and vibrant presentation. Jean and Gerry, along with several volunteers, were on hand during the two-day Hosta event to answer questions and discuss all things Hosta with crowds of people, many who grew Hostas or remembered them fondly. For several years the Minnesota Hosta Society and SOGHS alternate hosting the State Fair Hosta display. You can read more about it in the AHS e-newsletter under President Greg Peterson's "President's Musings" at Americanhostasociety.org under Publications.

Thanks you, Jean and Gerry, for a beautiful presentation of Hostas and representing SOGHS in this outstanding manner! – **Kathy Rustad, president**

SHADES OF GREEN FALL SOCIAL NOVEMBER 8 at HY-VEE

Summer may have ended but SOGHS stays connected! Please join us for the SOGHS Fall Social on Thursday, November 8, from 4-7 p.m. at Hy-Vee on CR22 (West Circle Drive NW). Hy-Vee offers great happy hour prices and selections that please the pallet and pocketbook. Plus, the conversation and laughter can't be beat. Hope to see you there! – **Kathy Rustad, president.**



First AHS Convention Recollections

There's an especially unique opportunity in 2020 for SOGHS members when the Minnesota Hosta Society hosts the American Hosta Society convention in Minneapolis. In fact, 2020 will mark a personal milestone for me since I attended my first AHS convention in 2000 in Minneapolis. Since then I've only missed a few national conventions (and even fewer MRHS conventions) and cherish the opportunity to visit amazing gardens with Hosta friends from around the country and world.

The Internet was not a key communication tool in 2000. It was a print advertisement about the 2000 convention in *The Hosta Journal* that caught my eye. Having become a member of AHS in 1996, my curiosity was sky high since this convention was taking place so nearby. It took almost no encouragement from my husband to help me decide to go! Upon arrival I didn't know a soul, but the hotel lobby was abuzz with warm greetings between friends. Smiles, laughter, hugs and lots of energy filled the space. People started asking where I was from and making introductions. I marveled at the *number* of Hosta enthusiasts and also that they seemed so well acquainted.

The friendly nature of attendees was never more evident than when I found myself in the elevator one early morning with Nancy Minks, wife of Eldren Minks (Fairway Enterprises, Albert Lea, Minnesota), who invited me to join her for breakfast. Eldren was not feeling well at the time and had not accompanied her to the convention. Regretfully, I never met Eldren or made the trip to Albert Lea to visit their business, but will never forget Nancy's kindness that morning. I was star struck by her and others who were considered Hosta royalty at the time, but who I later learned were equally friendly and accessible – and eager to share knowledge and experience.

The convention was memorable in other ways, too, not the least of which were the very fine hosta gardens we visited and the mind-blowing array of plants in the vending area. At that time, all attendees were bussed to the gardens and the shenanigans on the bus between stops were great fun with lots of boisterous conversation. It was a perfect time to make a new friend or two, and the commute time flew by. The live auction was something I steered clear of for the first few conventions because I was clueless on how it all worked. When I finally tried my hand at bidding, I was still clueless and gave my hotel room number when asked for my bidding number! It provided a good laugh and was worth the mild embarrassment because I finally had the winning bid.

Overall, it was the enviable camaraderie at that first convention that impressed me most and motivated me to seek out hostaphiles closer to home. It took me a few years to realize that dream with the formation of SOGHS, but it has been indescribably rewarding to get to know this group. As with SOGHS, people are the biggest draw to any convention. Catching up with friends, whether they are far-flung or close to home, is always the highlight. When you attend a convention, your Hosta universe is expanded in many ways you won't regret, so give it a try in the next year or two. At the risk of redundancy elsewhere in this newsletter, you're encouraged to consider attending the combined AHS/MRHS convention in the Green Bay area next summer (June 12-15, 2019). This event is sure to exceed any expectations you have about Hosta conventions! MORE INFORMATION BELOW:

Rooting for conventions,

CindyTomashek, Secretary/Historian

The [Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin](#) welcomes you to beautiful and picturesque Northeast Wisconsin where you'll tour iconic gardens, hear world-renowned speakers, shop a variety of vendors, participate in friendly competitions and a live auction, eat great food and, most importantly, enjoy the company of fellow gardeners and friends, both new and old.

Hotel: [Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Green Bay](#)

For More Information: Visit the www.ahs2019event.org.

The Founders' Day picnic at Cindy and Mike Tomashek's was a perfect day complete with delicious food, door prizes, a fun auction and, of course, lots of laughter. This is one of the many tasty recipes we enjoyed that day.

PANZANELLA

Rustic Tomato-Basil-Bread Salad *from Linda Brech, hostatality*

4 cups fresh tomatoes, diced (about 5 medium)

*Do not refrigerate tomatoes, the cold temps cause them to lose their flavor & turn mushy.

1 chopped red onion

1/2-cup water

1/3-cup olive oil

1/3 cup white wine vinegar

1 tsp. ground black pepper

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. sugar

1/2 cup chopped fresh basil

1 cup cubed mozzarella (optional)

20 oz. day old crusty bread, bite size cuts (I like to use a French Baguette)



Combine all ingredients except bread in large bowl: let stand for flavors to develop, 10-30 minutes. Taste test to your liking.

Add bread when ready to serve; toss well to coat.

Salad will hold several hours at room temp before serving.

Store any leftovers in fridge and consume the next day.

October 4

General Meeting

Speaker: Peg Hansen from Red Wing

6:30 PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

559 20th Street SW

Rochester, MN

Seasonal Care of Hostas

What should I do with the hosta leaves after they go dormant?

It's that time of year. The garden is getting ready to go dormant, and it's time to think about fall cleanup in the garden. So, what's a person to do?

There are several options. Hosta leaves will decompose, so if you have no problem with the appearance, you could leave them in place. However, be advised that leaving the decaying leaves in place provides a home for slugs and other unwanted critters to over winter. Many people choose to compost them and in so doing recycle nutrients. Finally, if you feel that your hostas may be affected by foliar nematodes, you may want to just throw them away. **DO NOT COMPOST THEM!**

DID YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TOURS? IF NOT, YOU MISSED SOME REALLY GREAT TIMES

If you've never joined us for one of our bus tours, a carpool tour or a member garden tour, you really should consider it. It's so much fun outsiders want to join us. For example, our overnight tour caught the attention of passersby. The morning we went out to our cars to leave the motel there were men taking pictures of our cars stuffed with plants! At breakfast we met a lady who said she was itching to be with us!! Please consider joining us for future fun. This is what the tour committee had going on this summer.

Saturday, June 16, at 7 a.m., we left Shopko South to tour three member gardens in Red Wing, MN: Karen Weaver's, Teri Yockey's, and Peg Hansen's as well as Joyce Malinowski's garden in Hagar City, WI. Each was uniquely different and beautiful. Undeterred by the rain, 31 people eagerly unloaded at Karen Weaver's. The rain just made the gardens more stunning. We stopped at Reuver's Nursery on the Wisconsin side of the river before visiting Joyce Malinowski's garden, where we were treated to the greatest confections made by Joyce Rapp. (We would like to see them at our meetings for hostatality!) After Joyce's we stopped at Stockholm Nursery. Being ahead of our time schedule we stopped at Smiths Landing in Pepin, WI, where we found hostas, lilies, and iron works for the garden. The bus was full after the nursery stops so most of our iron purchases came on the bus with us instead of underneath!! Many door (bus) prizes were drawn for also.

Saturday, July 7, a group left the Nash home for LaCrescent, MN, to visit the garden of Leon Thicke. We marveled at the slope he mowed in the front of the house. Many of his 1,500 hostas grow on steep slopes at the back and side of the house. Where it isn't too steep there are paths, but he had to make a special wooden ladder so he could go up to weed the steepest slopes.

Denny Bowe, where were you and your pickup when we visited Cottage Grove Nursery in West Salem, WI? I'm sure we could have loaded it with trees!! Deanna's GPS led us on a merry trip trying to find each stop! When we arrived in the parking lot of Cottage Grove, it told us to leave as we weren't at our destination yet. At Reed's Hostas we purchased hostas that were dug as we chose them. The picnic tables in the shade were a nice place to sit and eat lunch or just rest while others shopped. After lunch, we were off to Uniquely Hostas where we saw many unique hostas including the only Gunther's Prize, which Deanna Nash found.

Our member garden tour featured three Rochester gardens on Tuesday, July 17, and was well attended. At the home of Dennis and Karen Noltee we saw her amazing fairy gardens and a bed of mini hostas right behind them in the narrow space between the house and the neighbor's fence. Valinda Wondrasch and husband Pat have done an amazing job in their small hilly lot with the intent of having a private backyard retreat for themselves, the birds, and butterflies. Stepping into Rick and Susy Olsen's yard you will immediately notice Susy's creative, crafty side. Of special interest was the dragon she is building and her very large fairy tree made by saving about a 20-foot section of the trunk of a tree being removed. Many things were created for the grandchildren.

The overnight carpool tour August 3 and 4 was a blast. Seven nursery stops were made before stopping for the night in Eau Claire, WI, at our motel. Before we left Eau Claire, we stopped at two nurseries that weren't on our schedule. (This time we could have used more than a pickup for trees we would have liked to bring home.) At Klinger Market in Chippewa Falls there was a nice picnic area where we had lunch of chicken salad sandwiches, cheese and crackers and rhubarb cake. Our last stop was at Hosta Stop Gardens.

We would love to have more of our hostaholic friends join us on the tours. This year we had only 31 on the bus trip, so we had to take a smaller bus, which limited us for space underneath for the nursery stops.

I realize that June is a very busy month but I hope more of you join us next year. – *Deanna Nash, Tours*



Peg Hansen to speak at October 4th Meeting

Peg Hansen is the quintessential Renaissance woman, a remarkable person who has acquired profound knowledge and proficiency in more than one field. Or, according to the urban legend definition, she is a woman whose knowledge incorporates a unique method of analysis based on a vast and deep curiosity, and endless experiences, all of which she is anxious to apply largely to everyday life. Twenty years ago, Peg, a high school art teacher, with her engineer husband, Ray, bought an ordinary flat, vacant lot. Together they endeavored to build a passive solar dwelling with a multi-faceted preserve, creating berms and a permaculture structure that essentially cares for the earth and its people. Overtime they established an environment that achieved many of their ideals and included native plantings, a labyrinth design plot with a descending stairway to the Lake Margaret pond, flanked by a white-washed slat-type square gazebo and pathways.

If you were lucky enough to tour Peg's garden on June 16 on the annual SOGHS garden tour, you were led through the garden gate into an oasis of waving succulents amidst the bleached coral and stained glass bird bath, Alpine strawberries (which she graciously invited us to eat), flanked by a woven wooden fence, historically named hostas ("Mr. Livingston, I presume") and silver ornaments hanging throughout the trees and reflecting the stainless steel garden orbs settling in the garden—truly enchanting.

As a Renaissance Woman, Peg Hansen's creative talents are extensive and range from sewing Norwegian Bunad to creating intricate needlework to knitting a native Scandinavian sweater, to teaching a drawing class or leading a lively discussion about the EPA!

Peg is a longtime member of SOGHS. Her commitment and enthusiasm for permaculture and passive solar planting will make this earth a better place for all.. – *Chris Parisi, Education*



Peg Hansen braves the rain in her Red Wing Garden



Peg Hansen's Red Wing Garden
Photos by Joe Parisi



Artist's Statement

Over my artistic lifetime, I have become more and more attracted to pleasurable visual statements that have a life of their own...one I cannot predict with certainty, nor do I care to...kind of like teaching. Seeing human and non-human lives unfold and bloom is a privileged view of the world. Although I slip back to my salaried career of art education from time to time, the horticultural world holds my main attention these days.

I CANNOT stay away from gardening...some might say that is an understatement. Being outside and pawing in the soil holds a special fascination. Gardening over 50 years brings a perspective only achieved with paying attention to what "gets attention. The green world has always evolved and so has how we humans interact with the earth. I attempt to keep my practices healthy for all concerned. Yes, I love hostas and other exotic, herbaceous plants, and yes, I love learning about and growing more native herbaceous plants.

We must observe, have a plan, study, change when necessary, relish the stages, question, remember the pleasure, and not worry when we get pretty hot and sweaty. The iterative process goes round and round. Observation and patience are cornerstones of this world. Nothing is perfect and all is perfection. What a life!

Peg Hansen, October speaker

Surprise Someone with a Gift Certificate for the Plant Sale

Looking for a gift for that 'hard to buy for' person? Here is the perfect gift that will provide loads of fun and is sure to be just the right fit!

Shades of Green Hosta Society is now offering GIFT CERTIFICATES for the June 1, 2019, Plant Sale. You choose the amount you want to spend, and your recipients will get exactly what they want. It can't be any easier and what a great way to support SOGHS.



Just a reminder: Profits from our annual plant sale help fund scholarships for RCTC Horticulture Students, maintain a Hosta garden for Hope Lodge and provide education at numerous events including this year's Minnesota State Fair.

SOGHS Plant Sale gift certificates will be available at the Member Meeting on October 4 and the November 8 Social at Hy-Vee. – *Kathy Rustad, President*

Fall Is the Perfect Time to Set Aside Plants to Donate

It's always a good time to be thinking of the Annual Hosta Sale, so mark your calendars to help with setup on Friday, May 31, and the Hosta Plant Sale on June 1, 2019. With the help of so many people, we had a great sale in 2018 but it would not have been a success without the generous hosta donations of the members and also of the food and drink contributions that kept the volunteers happy and hydrated. Thank you!



If you have time and space, fall is a great time to divide plants since the weather does not always cooperate in the spring. Take a leisurely stroll around your garden with an eye toward inventory: Have they outgrown their space? Could they use a division? You may have space available to overwinter the divisions if you have a vegetable garden. Line out the divisions you get from your divided plants. Then next spring the plants will be ready to place in pots, and the garden space will be available for vegetable planting. An alternative is to take pictures this fall so that, come spring, you'll know which hostas need dividing.

We have a digging committee that would be glad to come and dig your donations this fall if you have space to overwinter the plants. If you would like to enlist the help of the digging committee, please contact me.

– *Jenifer Magera, Plant Sale Co-Chairman*

Renew Your Memberships at Oct. 4 Meeting

American Hosta Society Membership

Join the **American Hosta Society** and receive *The Hosta Journal* mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the *Members Only* section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions. ([See "Sample Article"](#)).

Other membership benefits:

- An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.
- A Biennial AHS Membership Directory
- The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- Access to Members Only section of the AHS website

Membership Rates (USA)		
Type	Term	Cost
Individual	one year	\$30
Individual	three years	\$80
Individual	five years	\$129
Individual	lifetime	\$900
Individual	e-membership	\$20
Family	one year	\$34
Family	three years	\$90
Family	five years	\$146

Effective midnight EDT on August 31, 2018, all new and renewal membership registrations will be assigned to calendar year 2019. No 2018 memberships will be available after August 31, 2018. Individuals who join/renew after that time will receive the regular welcome letter advising them of the effective date of their membership (but providing them with the 2018 password) as well as a copy of *The Hosta Adventure*.

Late Renewal Notice - In order to attempt to reduce the current practice of late renewals and offset the cost of mailings to late renewals, a \$5.00 fee will be added to all membership renewals postmarked or paid online after midnight EST on February 15, 2018.

[Click here to Join the AHS or Renew your Membership Online](#)

Membership Secretary:

[Sandie Markland](#)

AHS Membership Secretary

Post Office Box 7539

Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

We Had Another Successful Sale of 'Scratch and Dent' Hostas



Volunteers Sort and Bundle Hosta Purchases

Just as summer came and went quickly once again, so did our Scratch and Dent hosta offering. The 2018 offerings were H. 'Andy Murray', H. 'Fashionista', H. 'Jet Black', and H. 'Tom Terrific'. Thanks to all of you who ordered and picked up your plants so promptly! You got some new varieties at very reasonable prices. As in the past, these hostas from Bob Solberg's Green Hill Hosta Farm all had amazing root systems. Thanks to Dave and Denice, Chris, Deanna, Kathy, and Dave and Della for your help in quickly getting the orders sorted and packaged for distribution. Special thanks to Chris and Joe Parisi for letting us use their garage for our sorting party and providing pizza following completion of our "work"!

Happy Fall, everyone, from your friendly hosta pusher! -
Jan Gerke, Member Fundraising

Hostality Volunteer Opportunities In the Works

The Hostality committee will be growing in 2019 to include a co-chair and event volunteers for the three member meetings. Sign ups will be available during the Membership Renewals in the Fall or contact Linda Brech (mnbrech@charter.net) to lend your time and culinary talents! -
Linda Brech, Hostality

SOGHS

Board Members

- **President - Kathy Rustad**
kdrustad@gmail.com
 - **1st Vice President / Garden Tours - Deanna Nash**
mamasanirst@aol.com
 - **2nd Vice president / Programs/Education - Chris Parisi**
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 - **3rd Vice President / Membership/Promotions - Genella Mussell**
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 - **Secretary/Historian - Cindy Tomashek**
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 - **Webmaster - Dave Cocker**
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 - **Newsletter - Mary Lanier**
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Calendar of Events

- **October 4 - General meeting open to the public / Board elections Speaker: Peg Hansen from Red Wing, MN**
- **October 23 - Special Executive Board Meeting**
- **November 8 - Social Event Hy-Vee West Circle Dr. 4 to 7PM**
- **December 6 - Executive Board meeting**

2019 American Hosta Society Convention

**June 12 -15, 2019 - A joint convention with the Midwest Regional Hosta Society
Green Bay, WI**

Hosted by the Green and Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin

Mary Lanier
SOGHS Newsletter Editor
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