



The Hosta Leaf

September 2012

Volume 7 Issue 5

Wow, what a summer this has been!! Luckily the extreme heat has abated and we're having much more sane weather for our beloved hostas. As many of you know, our club hosted the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in July. The convention was a smashing success, thanks to the hard work and great attitude of all of those of you that volunteered to make it successful. There were numerous comments from attendees about the fun they had and the energy level of our volunteers! There were an astounding 80 members that volunteered to help with the convention, thank you!! Be sure to check out Cindy's article on page 3 if you volunteered to make sure your name is listed. There is going to be a special recognition event during the Founder's Day picnic, and Cindy and June want to make sure anyone that volunteered is properly recognized.

With summer winding down, it's State Fair time again. Many thanks to Jean Meyer for spearheading this project to make sure SOGHS is well represented in the horticulture section of the fair. Thank you Jean and everyone else who is helping out with this exhibit.

We recently lost a fellow SOGHS member to cancer. Susan McRoberts was an avid gardener, hosta enthusiast, and SOGHS member. Joan Till-Born interviewed her family and wrote a remembrance article you'll find on page 7. Our thoughts are with Susan's family and friends; her passion and love for life will be missed.

Thank you to Jeanne Truestedt and Vickie LeCocq for a very successful Scratch & Dent sale. This is a wonderful fund raiser for the club that went off without a hitch.



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

Summer is winding down and I can't say that I am sorry to see it go this year. The cooler, drier air of Autumn is very welcome. The MRHS convention we sponsored was a smashing success and we had four new members join that weekend. SOGHS continues to grow with each event we have.

It will soon be time to renew your membership and your first opportunity to do so will be at the Founder's Day Picnic on September 8th. I will have an updated list with me if you would like to check your membership status.

I hope to see you there.

Please welcome our newest members: Sharon Sandberg Lynette Johnson
 Darcy Loeschen Mary Wiese Diana Roozen Norrie McIlraith
 Dolly Gillen Joanne McDermott Carol & Ron Alley Nancy Clancy

OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN



Great job Jeanne and Vickie!

If you're looking for great tips on growing your Scratch & Dent purchases or other hostas, turn to page 7. You'll learn about proper light conditions, how to plant, water and fertilize your hostas, the pros and cons of doing leaf cleanup in the Spring or the Fall, along with details on how to divide your hostas. Fall is a great time to plant so get those shovels out and continue to plant our favorite plant. Oh, and don't forget to water, it's getting a little dry again.

Our next SOGHS outing is the Founder's Day picnic.

I highly encourage you to go. It's a great way to get a chance to visit with your fellow SOGHS members in an informal setting while enjoying great food and wonderful gardens. We have several new members that have joined in the last few months, so this will be a great opportunity to get to know our newest members and connect with long-time hosta friends. I hope to see you all on the 8th!!

Kim Greene,
 SOGHS President

Shadow play in the garden of Tim and Kurt creates one of many photo opportunities during the MRHS tours.



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H. 'Revolution' from the Herring's Garden



T & EVENT

ified
taphiles

plants from Bob and Nancy Solberg at Green Hill Farm!

All prepaid orders arrived for on-time delivery the day of the deadline, with all plant pick-ups the following Saturday.

Thanks to all the participants for your enthusiastic cooperation, support, and help in making this a huge success with no snafus, missed deadlines, forgotten plants (although I was counting on having some leftovers gracing my garden as hostages), or forgotten payments. For a fundraiser of this magnitude, you made it a very simple pleasure!!

Enjoy your new plants and make sure you keep an eye on them as they settle into their new homes. Our weather has been rather unpredictable so check to see that moisture and winter protection are provided if needed if Mother Nature should forget...

Your Scratch & Dent Event Team, Jeanne and Vickie

he 2012 Scratch & Dent Event was another unequal-success. Twenty-nine hos-purchased a record 129

SOGHS October General Meeting... Sneak Peak

Monty and Julie Carlson will speak on "Color & Character/Hybridizing" at our October meeting. Monty and Julie, descendants of families whose love of growing things originated in the farms, forests, and mountains of Sweden and Norway, share a love of the outdoors and gardening.

Monty's infatuation with the genus Hosta began over 20 years ago while in the nursery business. He started hybridizing 12 years ago, and then introduced Julie to hybridizing in 2003. Together they enjoy the continual learning curve involved with hybridizing and sharing their "hosta history" with other hosta lovers.



Hosta Hot-Spot For the month...

Funkie Garden of 19713 Quinnell Ave N, Marine On Saint Croix, MN 55047, just under two hours from Rochester, boasts that it stocks over 400 hostas for sale and has earned the right to be our 'Hosta Hot-Spot' for the month.

Funkie Gardens, with the tagline of: "Unique Plants, Unique Place," not only has a wonderful variety of hostas but is worthy of our patronage for other reasons as well. Let me list a few: they are knowledgeable, they are members of both MRHS and the AHS, they have many hosta companion plants available as well, they are reputable, they are neighbors to a very cool hardscape garden store, oh and...they are funkies!

If you have never made the trip to this favorite hosta destination, make it part of your fall colors river trip. You won't be disappointed!

Susy Olsen, Newsletter Editor



MRHS Convention Wrap-Up By Cindy Tomashek

One of the greatest pleasures in having hosted the 2012 MRHS Convention 'Operation Hosta' is being able to report to you that it was a re-

sounding success on every level – the most important one being that everyone who worked so hard in advance of and during the convention have not only remained friends, but become even better friends!! Plus our 200+ guests gave rave reviews!

Equally important is that we were fiscally responsible and have repaid our loan to SOGHS, plus we plan to recognize our volunteers with tangible awards (if you volunteered and are NOT on this volunteer list (following this article), please first accept my apology and secondly let me know right away so that we can be accurate during our recognition event (this is not a time to be shy). We will also be able to share our success with others as will be announced during the convention celebration at Founder's Day.

From the start of the convention, our plans went pretty much without a hitch or we were able to roll with the changes that needed to be made and a whopping 80 SOGHS members – just over one-third of our total membership – worked at some point to help make the convention a success, whether it was working on the Convention Committee, Rally Day, weeding in a convention garden, having your garden on tour, or helping during the convention, plus many other ways – this was a group effort and you should each be proud!

Hopefully you now have a good idea how much fun the Midwest Regional Convention can be and benefited from the experiences you took away. Whether you were learning from the expert hosta growers who gave seminars, partaking in the live auction (even if you were just a bystander), snatching up some prize hostas at vending, collecting your ribbons or making a wish list after viewing the Hosta Show, winning a terrific raffle item, visiting the tour and optional gardens, or laughing in the back row of the tour bus with new friends...we hope you enjoyed it. If you couldn't make it this year, don't despair, because 2013 will be in the Chicago area – well within driving distance (which means you can haul a lot of hostas home!).

Be sure to mark the 8th of September on your calendar to attend the Founder's Day picnic (details provided elsewhere in this newsletter) From 2-3 pm we will recognize SOGHS members who helped make the convention successful and there will be a movie/slideshow of convention highlights – another testament to the great ideas that flow out of this group (thanks in advance, Jan Gerke and Gordon Haubenschild!).

SOGHS, you shine, and as a result we continue to grow in amazing ways! Thanks for your time, friendship and support – it was fantastic group therapy!! Next session? Founder's Day, of course!

June and Cindy 2012 MRHS Convention Co-Chairs

THANKS TO THESE SOGHS VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING 'OPERATION HOSTA' A SUCCESS:

*Denotes Committee Member:

*June Stoehr
Joel Stoehr
*Cindy (Mike) Tomashek
*Dave Cocker
*Denice Cocker
*Jan Gerke
Gordon Haubenschild
*Kim Greene
George Eckman
*Kathy Hinzmann
*Mona Keehn
Rick Keehn
*Cory Landgren
Yvonne Landgren

*Vickie (Bob) LeCocq
*Gerry Meyer
*Jean Meyer
*Susy (Rick) Olsen
*Linda Orleff
Jim Orleff
*Tricia Torrens-Burton
*Jeanne Truestedt
Horst Truestedt

Cris Adams
Pat Albers
Mary Allen
Doris Amundsen
Barb Armbruster
Ed Armbruster

Bill Bond
Luann Bond
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Sheri Bowe
Linda Brech
Ena Cisewski
Joan Dotzenrod
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Pat Heck
Kris Hust
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Dave Jenkins
Kurt Johnson
Paul Koeller
Karen Koeller
Sue Martino

Nancy McMahon
Rhonda McNeilus
Joanie Meyer
Lloyd Meyer
Diane Miller
Murlin Miller
Patsy Mundale
Genella Mussell
Rose Napoli
Deanna Nash
Connie Neuman
Ron Neuman
Denny Noltee
Karen Noltee
Betty Olson
Pat Ostby
Harold Ostby
Amy Peterson

Gregg Peterson
Chris Peterson
Lynn Peterson
Joyce Rapp
Carrie Schroeder
Larry Schmidt
Pam Schmidt
Elaine Stadum
Joan Till-Born
Deb Thomford
Sandy Tomashek
Barb Vroman
Jean Wiersgalla
Jane Yunginger
Paula Zollman



More Convention 'Thank You's' **THANK YOU** to all those who helped



with Hostality at the Operation Hosta MRHS Convention. It was well-received and much appreciated by those who attended. Special thanks to Mary Allen, June Stoehr, Pam and Larry Schmidt. Special thanks also to those who donated food - and apologies for not keeping track of you all! Everything was wonderful! Tricia

Featured Fotos ...from our Convention

If you didn't make it to any or all of the gardens featured at the MRHS convention, here is a taste of beautiful yards that were on display. Thank you to all who opened up their gardens for the convention. We know you put lots of extra time and resources into your yards to the delight of all who visited. More photos will be shared at the Founder's Day Picnic. Now put on some relaxing music, sit back and enjoy these and others that can be found through out this month's SOGHS newsletter.

The trip to Dodge Center was definitely worth it. The McNeilus Gardens were in their prime!



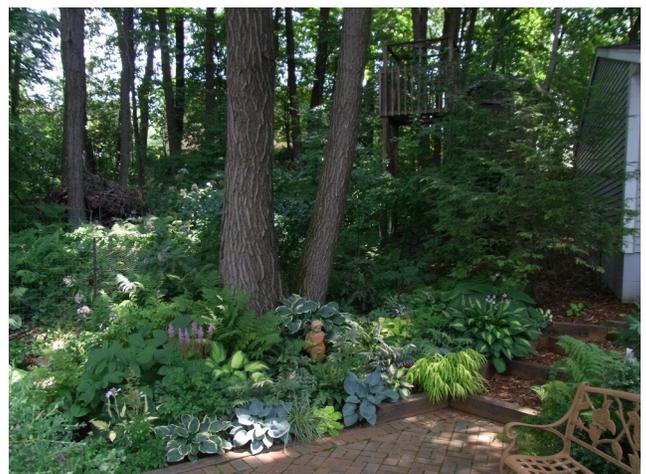
Mini hostas are happy in this large handmade container at the home of the Herrings.



Winding paths and ample seating creates a feeling of tranquility at the Farnham Johnson home.



Jane Yunginger's city lot boast mature trees and lot of great shade for her many hostas.





FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

HOSTED BY MIKE & CINDY
TOMASHEK

AT
CAMP CREEK FARM
21587 Hwy. 52 So., Preston, MN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Bring a dish to share and beverage of your choice...
we'll provide a hot sandwich, plates, plastic ware, and napkins.
Here are some of the opportunities you can take advantage of:

Gardens to stroll

Silent Auction from 1:00-2:00 pm (gets bigger and better every year!)

Bike Trails (Bring your bikes – trails accessible from our property)

Fishing (*requires a license) on Camp Creek (accessible from our property)

Hiking on the Preston/Harmony Bike Trail...bring comfortable shoes

Door prizes and more!

This year will include a special recognition of all 'Operation Hosta' volunteers from
2:00-3:00 pm – everyone welcome to attend!

We'll also view highlights from the 2012 MRHS Convention

Requirements: Lawn Chairs/Blankets, Sun Screen/Insect Repellent, Umbrella/Jacket (after this dry summer we can only hope to need these!) Relaxation, Socialization, Good Humor!

BRING YOUR FAMILIES: KIDS AND PETS ARE WELCOME
(PETS MUST BE LEASHED AND KEPT OUTDOORS PLEASE!)

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 3 TO CINDY

prestonplants@aol.com

(507) 289-2614 or 250-5311

If you plan to donate to the Silent Auction, please indicate # of items so we can be prepared with bid sheets and adequate table space!

Remembering a Fellow Hostaholic - Susan McRoberts

By Joan Till-Born

In late July a fellow SOGHS member, Susan McRoberts, lost a three-year battle with cancer. Recently I sat down with her husband, Ray, and daughter-in-law, Katie, to learn more about Susan. After 25 years working at IBM she sought a Masters Degree in Horticulture and started her second career of sharing her gardening knowledge with others. Susan devoted a great deal of time to gardening at home in Rochester as well as creating a beautiful English garden at their cabin on Gull Lake where she enjoyed having tea with Katie. She nurtured a love of gardening in her children, their spouses, and her 8 year old granddaughter, Hannah.

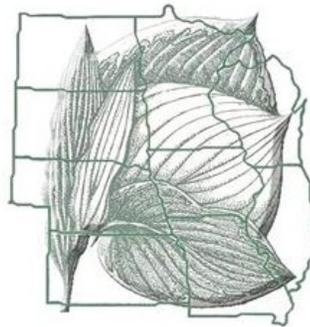
Susan shared her gardening expertise with Habitat for Humanity, Season's Hospice, and worked for Nancy Brataas where she created labels and a database of Nancy's many hostas and clematis. Katie admits that Susan has gotten her hooked on hostas. Susan surprised Katie one year by putting some hostas under leaves in her yard during the fall and when spring arrived she had Katie dig to find her new plants. Her family occasionally would be mildly embarrassed when Susan would pull weeds out of sidewalks or flower beds in public places; she just wanted to rid the world of weeds.

Ray affectionately told that Susan "loved to get her hands dirty." She helped with the gardens at Evangel United Methodist Church and gave instructions to the pastor on how to care for them. Even though Ray admits that he didn't understand it, Susan always insisted on using new soil when planting her flowers in the spring. She believed in giving plants a fresh start.

Susan will be missed by her fellow SOGHS Hostaholics. I hope you will crack a smile and think of Susan and her family the next time you bend down to pull out a weed in a public garden. Thank you Ray, Katie and family for sharing Susan with us.



Thought You'd Like to Know....



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states. Our mission is to promote education, research, development and enjoyment of Hosta.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter. This publication reports on events and information on Hostas in general.

Please mail a check made payable to MRHS to:

Kristine James
523 E Calhoun St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.

SOGHS Goes to the State Fair



SOGHS members have been creating and compiling posters, signs, slideshows, brochures and more to be displayed and handed out at this year's Minnesota State Fair. These visuals, as we know, will be interesting for some fair attenders and meaningful for only a few. The bonus for SOGHS is that these material are now something we can share with our own members! Being the hostaholics that many of us profess to be, I am sure that many of you will find these visuals more than meaningful as you continue to feed your passion! Below and in future newsletters find excerpts from what was used as the fair. In future meetings watch for helpful educational brochures, handouts, slide shows, posters and more! Thanks to all for sharing your knowledge and creativity!

Let's Grow Hosta

Light conditions

Hostas are shade *tolerant* plants. They grow wild in bright but cloudy overcast conditions at cool higher elevations. Here we grow them in high light shade or in dappled sunlight. Most will do well with cool early morning sun. Some will tolerate a couple of hours of late afternoon sun if kept well watered. **Avoid dark shade - hostas do need light to grow.**

Water

Hosta grows best with an ample water supply. Provide at least an inch of water a week. They do not thrive under hot dry conditions.

Keep them well watered throughout the autumn as they enjoy a second flush of growth in the later summer through fall.

Avoid planting hosta where they will have a lot of competition for water with tree roots. Areas under maple, spruce and other trees with roots close the surface of the soil should be avoided. If you cut into roots when you dig into the soil you may want to find another area to plant the hosta.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer will give a boost to plants but is not always required. Any well balanced fertilizer will do in either solid or liquid application. Apply when plants show first flush of growth and later at second flush and at 1-2 times spaced through the growing season. Or, use a long term slow release fertilizer. Do not put solid fertilizer into crown of plant as it may burn the foliage and crown.

Avoid fall feeding as you want the plants to start hardening off rather than having a growth spurt just before freezing.

Clean up: Fall or Spring?

Removal is not mandatory. However, if you have slugs, nematodes, or disease problems removal can help reduce pests and pathogens. Dispose and do not compost these leaves.

There are pros and cons for removal in fall or spring. Usually your energy level will determine which you prefer. Foliage removes easily in the spring. It can usually be raked away. In the fall you may have to cut the leaf stalks away.

Planting Your Hosta

Planting Your Hosta

Pot grown hostas can be planted at any time. High heat and drought can be plant stressors, however.

Hostas grow best in loose loamy soil with plenty of organic matter. Prepare your bed. Remove weeds. Till soil and add compost or peat moss so that you have a loose friable soil.

Hosta should be planted so that the crown, where all the new growth buds are, is at the same depth as it is in the pot or ground. The eyes should be just below the surface. The hole you dig should be a little deeper than the pot your hosta comes in but should be a least twice as big around so the roots can spread out and grow.

Turn the pot over with your hand over the surface of the pot and holding the plant in, tap the pot gently on the rim to loosen the plant. The plant should fall into your hands.

If the plant is root bound you should separate and spread the roots apart. Place plant in hole so that crown, where the roots and leaf stalks meet, is just below the soil surface. Add more soil under the plant if necessary. Spread roots laterally out into hole. Now fill in with soil and tamp

gently into place.

Water in. Add more soil if necessary.

FLOWERS

Some people like them. Some do not. If you do not want seeds, it is alright to remove the stalk at any time if you do not like them.

Dividing

Most hosta divide easily and are surprisingly tough and resilient.

Hosta can also be divided at any time but spring, just as the plants are coming up, is generally thought best. Cool overcast days will put the least stress on the plants as they reestablish their roots.

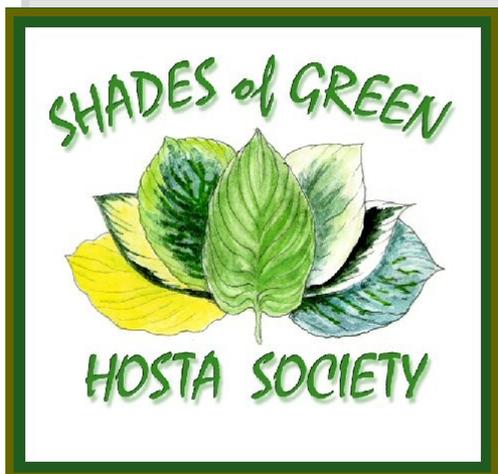
1. You may simply take your clump and cut through the root ball between the leaf petioles with a knife or shovel to separate. Try to leave a number of eyes or plant stalks in each division.

2. Another option is to take the plant and wash away most of the soil around the roots. A hose or pail of water is good for this. Then pull and twist away a clump off the main plant. You may have to hand separate some of the roots or make a small cut at the crown if it is very thick.

3. It is wise to have a 10% bleach solution at hand. You should clean knives or tools in this between cuts to avoid spreading disease. You can also dunk the root ball in this solution if cuts were made.

4. Many will cut off all the foliage about 4-6 inches above the ground if the dividing is done after the leaves are fully matured out. This will force a new flush of leaves and avoid the plant stress of trying to keep the leaves hydrated with a much reduced root system.

Susy Olsen
SOGHS Newsletter Editor
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Rochester, MN 55901
507-281-4469



SOGHS 2012 Calendar of Events

- September 8 Founder's Day Picnic/Silent Auction (Detail page 5)
 - September 25 Executive board meeting
 - October 4 General meeting open to the public, Speakers: Monty and Julie Carlson
Thursday, 6:30pm *
 - October 30 Executive board meeting
 - November 8 Member meeting / Year end special event / Board elections, Thursday, 6:30pm*
- *Fellowship Hall, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN

Yunginger Garden



McNeilus Garden

