

THE HOSTA LEAF

SOGHS

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kdrustad@gmail.com

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A newsletter of the Shades of Green Hosta Society



From Kathy Rustad: The President's Letter to Us

As I write this, the snow is falling outside while the wind whistles across our dormant landscape, but inside, I find that winter is a great time to brush up on the latest hosta news and to dream up plans for summer. From our SOGHS Hosta Leaf newsletter to the AHS Hosta Journal, these are just a few resources to help get those creative juices flowing.

In February, along with several other SOGHS enthusiasts, I attended my first Midwest Regional Hosta Society's Winter Symposium in Milwaukee, WI. It exceeded my expectation and that of my symposium buddy, Mary Lanier! Warm welcomes from familiar faces greeted us Friday night when we arrived and prepared for the following day's event.

Out of the six engaging topics presented by experts in their field, I will attempt to summarize 10 lessons I came away with that expanded my world and gave me encouragement to move forward learning more about both hostas and gardening. See Chris Parisi's additional take-aways from the symposium on page 5.

(President's Note Continued on Page 2 - "Tips from Experts at Symposium")

SOGHS MISSION STATEMENT

The Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast MN, Inc., is a nonprofit organization formed to educate members about hosta selection, cultivation and nomenclature, new and improved varieties, uses in the home landscape, and to promote interest in the genus Hosta.

The Mission shall be supported through the publication of a Society Newsletter, educational programs and garden tours, a web page and other group activities throughout the year.

Tips From Experts At Hosta Symposium

President's Letter Continued From page 1

From Bob Solberg's "Growing Hostas in Containers":

•It isn't the cold that is the problem when wintering hostas in pots, it is the moisture. Hostas like to be kept dry but not bone dry.

As you may remember from our last newsletter, I am attempting to winter two hostas in my unheated garage. This was a good reminder to keep adding snow. Once a month is my current plan.

•Terracotta pots need more watering but are beautiful and fun to collect. Try placing a hosta planted in a plastic pot INSIDE the terracotta pot to help with moisture retention and lighten the load when moving it to the garage in the fall.

•Don't over pot a hosta. Roots should get just about to the bottom of the pot. They like to be root-bound.

From Mark Zilis's "Searching for Hostas in the Wild in Japan": Mark, his son Andy, and Bob Solberg took the trip of a lifetime to Japan in search of *H. sieboldiana* in the wild. The result I will leave as a cliff hanger for you to ask Mark and Bob. What was also interesting to learn was that in Japan, hostas grow in volcanic rock. The Japanese like rough, coarse-leaved hostas and will treat their hostas with Cobalt60 to get different textural effects. Japanese also want to grow hostas that look like their originals unlike in the United States where we hybridize hostas to gain individual characteristics.

•See more in Bob Solberg's AHS Journal article about this trip!

From Don Dean's "Where did That Trait Come From?":

•Streaked hostas are traced back to *h. 'siebodii'* silver, white wax hostas are traced back to *h. 'seiboldiana'* and blue hostas from either *h. 'seiboldiana'* or *h. 'Tokudama'*.

•Don handed out an interesting table listing the pros and cons of hybridizing with each hosta species. It lists the characteristics one would expect to achieve and the challenges with each species.

•Understanding the hosta's parentage can help one understand the best growing conditions and hybridization potential.

From Jeff Moore's "Thoughts on Hosta Hybridizing":

•If the scientific details of hybridization lights your interest, this is the topic for you. Jeff gave several examples of good, stable hostas to use when hybridizing new hostas. For example, H. 'Allegan Fog' is a good, stable plant to hybridize with as it will keep the "misted" characteristic.

•A good hosta for hybridizing can come with a large price tag. Be sure to ask to see an offspring to validate viability as a hybridizing plant.

With this and more to learn from these events, I welcome you to come see for yourself at this year's American Hosta Society Convention combined with the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention in Green Bay, WI, June 12-15!

And don't forget another exciting educational opportunity sponsored by SOGHS. On Saturday, April 13th, join us for the Rochester Spring Garden Seminar at RCTC's Heintz Center. Select your choice of three sessions from the 12 topics presented by knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers, and then check out the vendor area and sponsor tables!

Until then, may the snow continue to melt and the temperatures climb back up the thermostat.

- *Kathy Rustad,*

Shades of Green Hosta Society President

•Hostas like to be kept dry but not bone dry. - Bob Solberg

MAKE A NOTE OF TOUR DATES

The SOGHS tour committee members, Deanna, Sue, Barb, Jan, Dorothy and VaLinda invite you to join some, if not all, of the upcoming adventures this spring and summer.

We will first take a carpool trip to the Amish Nurseries by St. Charles on Tuesday, April 30. Next up: our fun and famous car pools to Iowa to some of the many Mennonite Greenhouses. On Saturday, May 4, we will travel to *In The Country, K&K Nurseries* and *Fox Produce*. The carpool trips to Iowa on Monday May 6, Tuesday, May 7, and Wednesday, May 8, will go to some different *Mennonite Nurseries* west of New Hampton.



These nurseries have wonderful selections of, healthy, reasonably priced annuals, hostas and other perennials and even trees and shrubs. All of these car pools depart from Deanna Nash's country home where cars may be left safely for the day.

This year the American Hosta Society and Midwest Regional Hosta Society's joint Annual Convention, will be Wednesday, June 12, through Saturday, June 15. Many SOGHS members are planning to go and think that a carpool from this area would be more fun. Please consider joining us. Deanna has a block of rooms reserved, so please let her know if you would like to stay with the group.

On Tuesday, June 25, we will have three or four local member garden tours.

Saturday, July 13, is our annual bus trip. This is a unique trip that allows members to see the wonderful gardens of fellow members who live farther away. This trip also includes other gardens and nursery stops. On this trip we get to sit back, relax, and enjoy the company of other gardeners. We all work very hard in our own gardens and I know that I do not take the time to just sit outside and watch the birds, butterflies and actually look at the beauty of my flowers and plants. This is your chance to do this for a day. The cost for this trip is still just \$30.



Our last carpool is an overnight trip Friday, Aug. 2, and Sat., Aug. 3. We will be seeing Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, WI. We also plan to go to Al's Autobody and Arboretum, which is also a nursery where we can view and purchase plants. We will be staying in Janesville, WI, where we have a block of rooms reserved. Please let VaLinda know if you wish to stay with the group.

We plan to stop on Aug. 3 at more nurseries on the way back to Minnesota to take advantage of some good bargains often found later in the season. We will have sign-up sheets for these trips at the April 4 meeting.

Thanks from ***Deanna, Sue, Barb, Jan, Dorothy and VaLinda, The Tour Committee for SOGHS***

The Financial Resources Committee is a fairly new committee that the SOGHS board has established under the Treasurer's position.

The Financial Resources Committee will brainstorm ideas of how to "give back" to our membership. We have many fun activities throughout the year, however, we would like to get a greater percentage of the members involved. Therefore, we are asking for input from the membership to see where interests lie. As a board, we plan SOGHS activities, and would gladly accept ideas from the membership. Now is a great time to brainstorm for the upcoming year. Please consider joining the committee and voicing your ideas.

Contact me directly at chum721@gmail.com



(l to r) Carmen Nomann, June Stoehr and Doris Amundsen

Members enjoyed good times at the MARCH SOGHS social at Hy-Vee



Pam Schmidt and Denice Cocker



Hosta-huggers Vickie Hennessey and Deb Roos



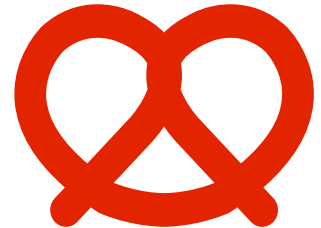
Yvonne Landgren and Carmen Nomann

Hostality Welcomes Your Help: Food Contributions Appreciated

The Hostality job description, altered and approved by the SOGHS board in September 2018, now includes a co-chair and the addition of recruitment for contributions of food for the three member/speaker meetings in February, April & October. June Stoehr, co-chair, will assist Linda with food and door prize duties. A signup sheet was started in October and will be made available at the April meeting as well.

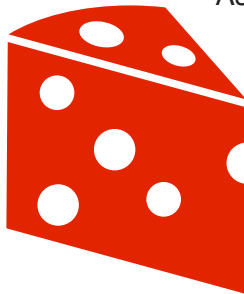
Please consider signing up for the following.

- 1) Veggie Tray/Dip and a Fresh Fruit
- 2) Meat/Cheese Tray and Crackers (also a small gluten free option)
- 3) Dessert, approximately 50 servings



If you sign up to provide one of the above foods, please bring your receipts that night for reimbursement. Linda will keep a tally so that we stay on track with the food budget. You would also be able to assist with the setup and cleanup of the event. Linda will call/email each assistant 7-10 days prior to the meeting as a reminder.

As has been tradition, additional members are encouraged to contribute sweets/savory items for the member meetings. If you like, give Linda a shout out to let her know your plans.



*****At this time we are in need of 2 members to assist with the October Member Meeting for items #1 & #3. Please call or email Linda if available.*****

The May Open House Event will become a potluck provided by the SOGHS Board members.

The June Plant Sale Event will continue to be managed by the Hostality Chairs through signups for food and supplies for the workers of the two-day event.

The Founders' Day Event in September will remain an all-member Potluck.

NONE of the budget is spent on alcoholic beverages for food or door prizes.



Thanks again!
- Linda Brech and June Stoehr Hostality

WHAT I LEARNED AT 2019 WINTER SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday, February 2, the Midwest Regional Hosta Society held a Winter Symposium at the Milwaukee-Brookfield Sheraton Hotel in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, an easily accessible and convenient venue. The meeting, organized by Jack Barta, included 6 excellent talks by well-known speakers in the hosta world. In addition to joining old and new friends, attendees enjoyed good food, opportunities to bid on donated hosta seeds and purchase books and T-shirts for the June AHS meeting in Green Bay.

A few of my favorite personal take-aways from the meeting follow:

Bob Solberg (Green Hill Hostas) provided an in-depth discussion of ***Growing Hostas Successfully in Containers***.

- *In his opening remarks, Bob described some interesting European Hosta facts. Hostas in Holland are grown in open fields, since Holland is considered a cloudy country. The garden centers in Europe have a plant of the week sale that requires growers to be able to provide blooming hostas during that particular week.

- *Reasons to plant hostas in pots include poor garden soil, ease of planting and dividing, protection from tree roots and voles, water and fertilizer control, ability to “pamper” hard-to-grow hostas, portability, and the likability/appearance of pots, while negatives include the needs for more water and fertilizer, winterization, and repotting, as well as the cost of attractive pots.

- *Don't over-pot hostas, since hostas like to be pot-bound; roots should dictate the size of the pot.

- *Recommended soil mix includes peat moss, perlite, pine bark, garden soil, gravel, and a slow-release fertilizer (eg, tomato food that is rich in Magnesium).

- *Terracotta pots dry out faster than preferred plastic containers.

- *Repotting is recommended when the soil compacts or the pH drops ($\text{pH} \leq 4$).

- *During winter, keep hostas dry; however, soil determines watering schedule.

Donald Rawson's excellent talk, ***You can have a Tree-mendous Garden***, described the problems of roots, soil, and shade, and provided numerous helpful tips to assist the gardener in allowing hostas and trees to coexist. These include the choice of trees (deep root systems), improving the soil, adding topsoil around trees, using raised beds, choosing vigorous and mature hostas, adequate watering, fertilizing and light; spading around hostas, selective root pruning, rotational planting, planting hostas in above- and below-ground containers, and use of Spin Out bags and fabric. Don described the 2-bucket system with constant reservoir for planting hostas under trees.

Don Dean, in his talk, ***Where did That Trait Come From?***, discussed hosta hybridizing with an emphasis on general traits in a range of hosta species and how they relate to modern hosta cultivars. This is a very interesting but complicated area of study.

Mark Zilis (A to Z Perennials) provided a fascinating tour of hostas in Japan in his talk, ***Searching for Hostas in the Wild in Japan***, which detailed his July 2018 trip to Japan with his son, Andy, and Bob Solberg in the quest of finding species *Hosta 'sieboldiana'* in the wild. This enjoyable tour de force presentation included photos of numerous “unknown” hosta species, that he, Bob and Andy encountered during their whirlwind tour of many hosta gardens, suppliers and natural habitats. This was Mark's 6th tour of Japan to study hostas. Oh, if only I was 20 years younger, I would want to have Mark as tour guide of wild hostas of Japan!



Jeff Moore in his talk, ***Thoughts on Hosta Hybridizing***, detailed some interesting facts and challenges in hosta hybridizing, including the production of thousands of seedlings each year from crosses, most of which never appear in market because of a very selective culling process.

George Papadelis (Telly's Greenhouse) had attendees salivating as he described many new annual and perennial introductions in his slide presentation, ***New Annuals and Perennials for 2019***.

Highlighted annuals included: two Alstroemerias: Alstroemeria Katiana (rose-colored) and Alstroemeria Mulan (a unique purple and lavender bicolor); a dragonwing begonia: Begonia Dragonwing Canary Wings (gold colored and shade-requiring); three Calibrachoa Superbells: Calibrachoa Superbells Cardinal Star, Calibrachoa Superbells Doublet Love Swept, and Calibrachoa Superbells Holy Cow; two coleuses: Coleus Fancy Feathers Copper and Coleus Pink Poodle; a Gomphrena (Truffla Pink), and several species of vinca rosea: Vinca Tattoo Series (Black Cherry, Papaya, Raspberry, and Tangerine). Highlights of the perennials included: Achillea ptarmica 'Peter Cottontail' (white flowers, DEER-RESISTANT, resembling Baby's Breath, but long-lived); two Buddleias (both DEER-RESISTANT): Buddleia Grand Cascade (lavender) and Buddleia 'Pink Cascade' (apple blossom pink); an Echinacea: Echinacea Kismet Raspberry (16' tall, flowers last for weeks, most popular); and of hellebores, the wedding party series (Hellebores Black Tie Affair, Hellebores Mother of the Bride, and Hellebores Shotgun Wedding).

Sadly, Telly's Greenhouse does not do mail order—we'll have to organize a trip to Troy, MI, to pick up these spectacular plants in person!

- Chris Parisi, Education and Program Chair

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY CONVENTION



Green Bay, WI

June 12-15, 2019

"Friends - Foliage - Forever"

A joint convention with the [Midwest Regional Hosta Society](#)

For complete details:

Visit the www.ahs2019event.org

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

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY'S MISSION:

The American Hosta Society is an international, not-for-profit, educational, scientific society formed to foster and promote knowledge and interest in the genus *Hosta* through education and outreach, to encourage the introduction and development of new and improved varieties of hostas into cultivation, and to promote the registration of new cultivars in our role as the ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) for the genus *Hosta*.

HELP WANTED— SOGHS EDUCATION COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Education Committee serves an important function in SOGHS.

In addition to planning the educational programs for the Winter, Spring and Fall member meetings, the Committee supplies unique resources to SOGHS, providing publications and important highlights of seminars of interest to members as well as writing educational articles for the quarterly newsletters. The Committee is seeking three new members who are willing to participate and provide much-needed input to educational activities. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Chris Parisi at casaparis@charter.net.

Silent Auction

The SOGHS Spring Open House is Thursday, May 23, 2019, and we are seeking donations for the

silent auction. Garden-related items such as books, garden art, plants, pots, and gift certificates are very welcome.

Email me at suewmartino@gmail.com or sign up to donate at one of the upcoming member

meetings before May 23. I can prepare a bid sheet in advance or just bring your item

to the May Open House and we will prepare a bid sheet that evening.

Thank you for being so generous.

Member Fundraising Chair, Sue Martino



SOGHS 2019 Hosta of the Year (HOTY) Offerings

Don't Miss These Beautiful Plants at Great Prices

Deadline for orders for this members-only sale is **Saturday, April 6, 2019, so order now.** Thank you to all who have submitted orders thus far. We have two Hosta member sales per year. The Hosta of the Year sale is going on now, and the Scratch and Dent sale will be held in late summer. Hosta order forms and information can be found on the SOGHS website and in the SOGHS January newsletter. It is a great way to gain hosta variety in your garden while simultaneously supporting SOGHS.

Members may pick up some hard-to-find hostas at *discounted prices* by sending in your order form and check to Sue Martino 40437 Ryans Bay Rd Zumbro Falls, MN 55991. Orders will be accepted until Saturday, April 6.

Don't Forget to Pick up your Hosta Of the Year Order



When: Saturday, April 27th or Sunday, April 28th 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: Saturday at 40437 Ryans Bay Road Zumbro Falls (Lake Zumbro) or

OR: Sunday at 5317 Timberidge CT SE, Rochester (Jan Gerke's)

See you then and thank you for your support of SOGHS! - Sue Martino, Membership Fundraising

(507-753-2430) (507-923-0986) --- suewmartino@gmail.com

Making A Case for Membership in SOGHS

Greetings! I recently accepted the membership duties for our group. People ask me, "Why join a group that is about Hostas?" Why not? Once you see all the great opportunities to meet others with like interests and to see the beautiful gardens you will be hooked.

Belonging to SOGHS is more than just going to a couple of meetings and attending the plant sale. You meet many great people who are very knowledgeable about hostas and all things gardening. There are thousands of hosta varieties with unique names, shapes, colors and sizes. All it takes is visiting one of our member gardens or going on a bus trip to get the hosta bug.

The very first hosta I purchased, almost 30 years ago, was H. 'Regal Splendor.' I still have that plant and have shared it with many friends. I encourage you to introduce someone new to the word of hostas and they, too, may join the great group of what I affectionately call "Hosta Nerds."

Membership dues are \$10 for one year, and \$20 for two years. To join or to renew your membership, send your dues along with your name, address, phone number and email information to:

Joan Till – Born

Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS)

4053 70th Ave NW

Byron, MN 55920




BRAD HERRICK'S

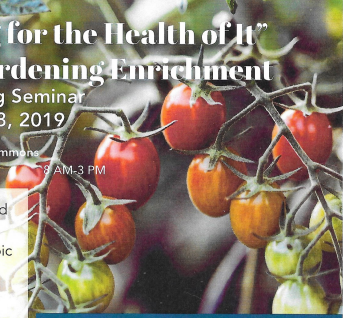
'JUMPING WORMS' PROGRAM

JUMPS TO APRIL 4

A Winter Storm (this is Minnesota, after all) forced the cancellation of the SOGHS February meeting. Our scheduled speaker, Brad Herrick, was able to rearrange his schedule and will be giving his much anticipated talk on Jumping Worms at the April 4 SOGHS Member Meeting. Please plan to attend what promises to be an excellent presentation. - *Chris Parisi, - Programs and Education chair*






"Gardening for the Health of It"
A Day of Gardening Enrichment
 Spring Gardening Seminar
 Saturday, April 13, 2019
 549
 Location: Heintz Center-Community Education
 8300.231 Sa, April 13 8 AM-3 PM



- 9-10:15 AM Keynote Speakers Chef Chris Rohe and Jenna Rohe
- Three Breakout Sessions - You will choose one topic when you register!
- Vendors will be onsite offering their products.
- Fee includes morning coffee break and light lunch.
- Registration Deadline: Monday, April 8.
- No refunds after March 15.

Cosponsored with RCTC Horticulture Program, Rochester Garden and Flower Club, Shades of Green Hosta Society, and the University of Minnesota Olmsted County Master Gardeners.
 If canceled due to inclement weather, you will be issued a refund minus costs incurred (including supplies, food, and salaries).

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADULT REGISTRATION FORM
 Northrop 201 8th Street NW Rochester, MN 55901 • www.rochesterce.org/register • 507-328-4000

1 STEP ONE: Registration Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____ Zip Code _____ City _____
 Birthdate _____ Sex M / F (please circle) Email _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Class Code	Class Title	Date	Time	Fee
8300.231	Gardening for the Health of It	Saturday, April 13, 2019	8 AM-3 PM	\$49
TOTAL:				\$49

*Please check 4 boxes for topics you are interested in:

<input type="checkbox"/> "Dig" Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Go Wild with Native Plants!	<input type="checkbox"/> Dig Into Gardening Basics
<input type="checkbox"/> Houseplant Patrol: Basic Care, Problem-Solving, and Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbirds in Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Herbs for the Home Gardener
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree and Shrub Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Plants: Wrong Plants in the Wrong Place	<input type="checkbox"/> "Let's Get Potted" - The Art of Container Gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> "Weeding is NOT Fun!"	<input type="checkbox"/> Success with Succulents	<input type="checkbox"/> Tips for Gardening with Raised Beds

*Dietary Restrictions _____

Cash
 Check Number _____ (Make checks payable to "Community Education")
 Discover MasterCard VISA
 Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____ Card holder's printed name _____

2 STEP TWO: Confirm your personal information (watch for email)

Coming Soon: Time to Dig, Divide



Are you ready for the next SOGHS Hosta Sale? Let's hope that nature cooperates so that we will have ample time for our divisions to mature.

If you need help digging or have a large number of hostas that need dividing, we can help. This year we have a Dig Team headed by **Paul Koeller**. For assistance, contact Paul by email: pdkinmn@aol.com.

This year's spring Hosta Sale is on Saturday, June 1st, 2019, starting at 8 a.m. We need our club members' help in donating at least five hostas per person. Here are some of the things to keep in mind when donating:

- Dig when the pips are just breaking through. Transplants will look good at sale time. For a refresher on how to divide and transplant hostas, check out these videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y90miSFQKjk>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOELV5cNteg>.
- Contribute **ONLY** one "common" hosta per donation (*not all 5*). i.e.: h. 'lancefolia,' h. 'albomarginata,' and the common, solid green hostas.
- SOGHS can supply you with dirt and pots.
- All companion plants can be donated to the sales offered by Rochester Garden and Flower Club, or the Master Gardener sale at the historical society the same weekend. The SOGHS sale **will not** offer companion plants.

Sign-up sheets for volunteering for Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1st 2019, will be at the April and May meetings. The sign-up sheets designate areas of specific needs such as cashiers, holding area help, food contributors and so forth.

- Set-up will also need specific leaders to be in charge of the alphabetized hosta groups. These people will make sure set up is correct for their portions of the alphabet including checking that all plant I.D.s are in place and that plants are in their proper places on the tables.



• **Help us clean up!** It is fun getting ready and going through the excitement of seeing the beautiful plants go out the door to new homes, but the truth of it is the event isn't over until the floors are swept. So, please help us seal the deal (close the door)!

Thank you in advance for supporting the plant sale of SOGHS. Proceeds contribute greatly to our operating budget.

Jen Magera (left) and Paula Zollman, plant sale co-chairs

2019 SNOWFLAKE GALA WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL CELEBRATION

Although a winter storm forced the rescheduling of this year's Snowflake Gala to the next evening, everyone who attended enjoyed an evening of food, fun, friendship, and prizes.

This year, a record number of members had registered, but the change in date resulted in a total of 55 attendees.

Planning for the Gala began in September and its success was due to the contributions of so many talented and generous members. Special thanks to **Denice and Dave Cocker, and Sherrie and Denny Bowe** for the exceptional design and decorations. This year's Winter Fun theme was inspired by a unique donation by Denny and Sherrie Bowe. The distinctive hand-painted oil canvas had been rescued by Denny from a holiday event in 2006, and had been safely stored for 13 years! This work of art inspired Denice and Sherrie to create the artistic table settings that transformed the dining room into a magical winter wonderland, and also served as the backdrop for photos. Everyone enjoyed the winter props (the dressing up for photos brought more than a few laughs), and participating in the cleverly designed "Hosta Crossword Puzzle" and "Guess the Snowballs" by Kathy Rustad. Thanks also to Barb Vroman and Rita Buegler, who obtained door prizes so that everyone went home with a prize.

New this year was a Grand Prize sponsored by the SOGHS Board. Congratulations to Dorothy Wichmann, who was the winner of the \$100 certificate for the purchase of hostas.

Thank you to members of the Planning Committee (Rhonda Berg, Sherrie and Denny Bowe, Linda Brech, Rita Buegler, Denice and Dave Cocker, Mona Keehn, Jean and Gerry Meyer, Deanna Nash, Chris and Joe Parisi, Kathy Rustad, Barb Vroman, Lori Weisinger, and Paula Zollman), the SOGHS Executive Board, the Willow Creek staff, and many generous members who contributed to the event.

Photos commemorating the Gala will be available at the April 4 member meeting.

If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact us at: casaparisi@charter.net.

Joe and Chris Parisi

PHOTOS BY JOE PARISI



Decor created by Denice Cocker



**Enjoying WINTER FUN are (l to r)
Denice Cocker, Dave Cocker, Denny
Bowe, Pam Schmidt, and Sherrie Bowe.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March/April - HOTY Sales Event

April 4 - Member meeting 6:30PM

April 9 - Master Gardener Meeting

April 13 - Spring Garden Symposium 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, RCTC Heinz Building

April 18 - RG&FC Meeting

April 30 - Car Pool Amish Nurseries by St. Charles, MN

May 4 - Car Pool to K&K Nursery (Hawkeye, IA) Fox Produce (Randalia, IA) In the Country Garden & Gifts (Independence, IA)

May 6,7,8 - Car Pool to Iowa (Mennonite Nurseries west of New Hampton, IA)

May 14 - Master Gardener Meeting

May 16 - RG&FC Meeting

May 23 - Spring Open House at Cindy Tomashek"s house

June 1 – Public signup for July SOGHS bus tour

June 1 - SOGHS Annual Hosta Plant Sale, Olmsted County Fairgrounds, Bldg 40

June 1 - Garden Fair 9 AM – 3 PM, The History Center of Olmsted County

June 1 - Article deadline for July/August/September Newsletter

June 11 Master Gardener Meeting

June 12-15 Car Pool trip to AHS Convention (combined with MRHS) in Green Bay, WI

June 12-15 - AHS National Convention, Green Bay, Wisconsin "Hostaffinity" and Midwest Regional Hosta Convention

June 20 - RG&FC Meeting

June 25 - Member Garden Tour (3-4 member gardens)