

The Hosta Leaf

of Southeastern Minnesota

Volume 2 Issue 1 Feb/Mar 2007

Annual Business Meeting and Program

Feb 1, 2007 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

559 20th ST SW, Rochester

There will be a business meeting to discuss plans for 2007 followed by 2 short programs.

Mary Wallace has worked for over 20 years in the Landscaping/Garden Center business as landscape designer, store manager and consultant, and is currently at Nature's Way Landscape Center. In conjunction with her sister, Martha Lisko from Olympia, WA, and Journeys with Jeff, Mary will be leading a tour to England to explore famous and lesser-known gardens. Mary will present information about various English gardens and offer information about the tour so that anyone interested in participating can begin to plan for a fun and exciting tour!



Cindy Tomashek will present a program on **Hostas: Mighty Minis** that will cover some of the most popular miniature/dwarf/small hostas available to gardeners, as well as some newer introductions!

2007 Garden Tours

The Tour Committee has put together some outstanding garden tours for us this year. Besides our member garden tours be sure to keep your calendars open for the following "out-of-town" tours.

May 20. Hans Hansen Garden , Waseca, MN. Hansen's garden consists of primarily a sunny area and a shady area. There are herbaceous peonies, daylilies, and rock garden plants and conifers in the sunny areas.

The shade is home to ferns, hostas, and epimediums. The layout is informal, but grass paths provide walking areas between the beds. There are over 1000 varieties of hostas. Hopefully some of the early peonies will be in bloom, the hostas should look nice as well. Hans has been a major breeder and developer of new hostas and is in charge of plant development at Shady Oaks .

June 3- Foxfire Gardens. Just outside Marshfield, WI, this eastern influenced garden is just amazing. Towering evergreens, huge ponds, waterfalls, rock gardens, a teahouse, and beautiful hostas create a really unique garden experience. Featuring both sunny and shade areas. Hostas will be for sale here.

Next door is a completely different experience as you go back in the eons of time to visit Jurustic Park—a metal sculpture inspired landscape. Take a test drive at the following web sites:

www.foxfiregardens.com and www.jurustic.com

June 30. Roger and Kak Koopman Garden, Faribault.

This garden has been featured and photographed for many fine magazines that feature outstanding gardens. Roger was a landscape designer for Bachman's, including in Rochester, and was one the early hosta enthusiasts along with many of the organizers of the American Hosta Society. Featuring sun and shade areas this is a garden you won't want to miss.

Shades of Green Hosta Society
of Southeastern Minnesota

WEBSITE

<http://www.soghs.org>

President

Cindy Tomashek - 289-2614

Prestonplants@aol.com

1st Vice President/Garden Tours

Casey Funk - 288-9604

funk.kay@mayo.edu

2nd Vice president

Programs/Education

Lynn Knott - 507-581-0090
Kenyon

Secretary/Historian

Linda Orleff - 282-0243

linda@orleff.com

Treasurer

Mona Keehn - 288-3511

Chum721@charter.net

3rd Vice President

Membership/Promotions

Betty Olson - 287-0380

Tensheep@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Vicki LeCocq - 280-6569

vickilecocq@hotmail.com

Newsletter -

Jean Meyer - 356- 4830 Pine
Island

jeanmeyer@att.net

MEMBERSHIP

Shades of Green Hosta Society
\$10.00/yr individual, \$15.00 family
Send dues to: SOGHS/Betty Olson
5300 31st AV SW
Rochester, MN 55902

2007 Calendar

Feb. 1 – 2nd Annual Meeting/Program – Location TBA, 6:30 pm;
Business meeting followed by program (Mary Wallace of Nature's Way
Nursery, English Gardens, plus a bonus mini-program on 'Hostas – The Mighty
Minis' – Cindy Tomashek)

Feb. 20 – SOGHS Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 17 - Coffee and Catalogs @ Old Country Buffet (8:30 am-10:00 a.m.) –
Bring your garden photos and catalogs to share! Wear Green to commemorate
St. Patrick's Day – and SOGHS!

April 5 – Meeting/Program – Location TBA, 6:30 pm; Business meeting
followed by program (TBA)

April 17 – SOGHS Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

May 1 – Public may sign up for Bus Tour to Foxfire Garden (Marshfield, WI) if
not filled

May 18 – 2:00 pm-7:00 pm - Set up for SOGHS Annual Plant Sale

May 19 – 8:00 am-Noon - SOGHS Annual Hosta and Shade Plant Sale, Bldg.
40, Olmsted County Fairgrounds

May 20 – Hans Hansen's Garden Tour, Waseca, MN

May 24 – SOGHS Member Garden Tour (5:30-8:30 pm)

June 3 – Foxfire Garden Bus Tour, Marshfield; WI (depart 6:00 am)

June 14 – SOGHS Member Garden Tour (5:30-8:30 pm)

June 20-23 - AHS National Convention – Indianapolis, IN

June 30 – Roger and Kak Koopmans Garden Tour, Faribault

July 12-14 - Midwest Hosta Convention – Davenport, IA

July 24 – SOGHS Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm (Location TBA)

July 26 – SOGHS Member Garden Tour/Plant Swap/and Workshop: How to
choose, prep and exhibit hosta leaves, Cindy Tomashek

September 8 – Founder's Day Potluck – Tomashek Farm, 21587 U.S. Hwy
52, Preston, MN

***Season End Sale by Lone Ridge Nursery???**

October 4 – Meeting/Program – 6:30 pm

November 20 – SOGHS Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm

Other Important Hosta Memberships

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

\$10./yr Send dues to

Peter Postelwaite

2112 Andover Road

Kildeer, IL 60047

1-847-438-7790

www.MidwestHostaSociety.org

American Hosta Society

1 yr \$25. Individual/ \$29. Family

2 yrs \$47. Ind/ \$52. Family

3 yrs, Ind/\$65./ \$75 Family.

Send dues to: Sandie Markland,
AHS membership Sec.

8702 Pinnacle Rock CT

Lorton, VA 22079-3029

www.hosta.org



President's Letter



Winter solstice occurred a week ago as of this writing. It happens to be one of my favorite days in the gardening year regardless of the fact that it signifies the beginning of winter. Am I crazy? Probably, but December 21 signifies to me the beginning of longer days and increasing daylight, which all leads to spring! So, crazy or not, my spirits start to lift the moment I know winter has begun because spring can't be far behind.

Of course, there are other uplifting sources, like the hosta catalogs that already arrived from Naylor Creek and Hilltop Farm, along with the catalog from Seymour's Selected Seeds and White Flower Farm that came a couple of days ago. These (and the ones to follow) provide sustenance to my gardening soul, along with perusing my favorite on-line hosta sources. The colorful photos and alluring descriptions are a real boon on dreary days, though they also contribute to a wish list that is usually out of control by the end of December. Serious pruning of the wish list takes place in January, with orders being placed after much agonizing over which candidates are worthy enough to fork over funds from my budgeted allotment. Does this sound familiar? Not everyone purchases hostas within this kind of framework, but it keeps me from going too far off the deep end. Sort of.

Thanks to the hard work of our membership/promotions chair and committee, the rate of re-enrollment in our organization has also provided me with a tremendous lift. We will be going forward into 2007 with a very healthy number of members, both new and returning. That shows that we are on the right track and must be doing something right. Please be sure to let me know what you liked and disliked about the events we offered in 2006 and what you would like to see SOGHS accomplish in the future.

Your executive board and committee chairs have been working hard behind the scenes to bring you another year of good programs, great gardens to tour, and opportunities to add new hostas to your garden, either through the member plant swap, plant of the year offer or a tour that includes hosta vendors. Great ideas continue to flow from our members also. Other events are being firmed up for the year ahead include:

- In 2007 we will have a photo contest – details forthcoming. So clean your camera lens and be prepared to start photographing your garden, or any great garden you happen to have the good fortune to visit.
- We will also begin some community outreach by sponsoring AHS memberships at a few libraries in the region.
- Another community outreach project that involves installing and maintaining a hosta garden at Hope Lodge in Rochester is also on the horizon. This will involve SOGHS members volunteering either plant material and /or time to design, install and maintain the garden. This is a long-term commitment by our organization, one I hope you will consider supporting, either through occasional weeding and watering or donation of a special plant. Wouldn't it feel great to offer a special garden to cancer patients and their family members that might bring a smile, offer contemplation or just arouse curiosity and take their minds off their troubles for a few minutes? I really hope we are able to make satisfactory arrangements to realize this project.

More details and discussion of these projects will take place at our annual meeting. Remember to mark your calendar for February 1 and plan to attend the 2nd annual meeting of SOGHS. I'm looking forward to greeting familiar faces and meeting our new members.

The excitement is growing!! Cindy

By Linda Kofstad

Meet your Hosta Society Friends

DAVE AND DENICE COCKER

Dave and Denice live in rural Mazeppa, north of Rochester. Their property consists of 21 acres of shade with about three acres that do get full sun. But their house is in a valley and as a result gets about 4 hours less sun than if they lived in an open flat area. Ferns and Jack-in-the-pulpit grow just fine in full sun in their front yard.

Dave is a plumber working out of Pine Island, and Denice is a teacher's aid working with special needs students in the Zumbrota-Mazeppa school system. They have a son who just got married and lives in Rochester, and a daughter who is a student at RCTC.



Dave's early gardening background was helping his parents who had a large vegetable garden and sold vegetables. He says "I got to weed". His grandparents also had large vegetable gardens.

Denice's early gardening experience seems quite similar to Dave's. She was expected to help weed the family's vegetable garden which supplied plenty of lettuce, potatoes, and tomatoes for the family and plenty of carrots for the horses.

After they married they lived in apartments and had tropical fish and house plants. When they got their first house in Mazeppa, they planted a vegetable garden and built an outdoor fish pond, but once they started building their house on the wooded property, there was little time for gardening.

Frequently, for a break from building chores, they would take rides looking for wildflowers to photograph. They have hundreds of pictures of Minnesota wildflowers.



Although their two children complained about these wildflower escapades, Denice beamed with pride when they were the ones who identified the wildflowers on their sixth grade nature hikes.

When they moved into their new home they put in a vegetable garden and started landscaping. They planted wildflowers, daylilies, and other flowering plants. Denice was frequently responsible for supplying their small country church with bouquets of flowers.

They also continued the house plants (African violets, orchids, ferns, and whatever else caught their eye).

About ten years ago, while making their annual fall pilgrimage to the nurseries in the Twin Cities looking for bargains, they found hostas! With all the shade they were having a hard time finding enough sun to grow most plants so they bought six hostas, all common and cheap.

The hostas did well and Dave started reading about them. Then they found Shady Oaks Nursery. Within a couple of years Dave says he was addicted. They now have thousands of plants and about 350 varieties.

Dave enjoys growing hostas but is not into showing. He says he "dabbles a little with hybridizing but I don't have enough time." He has done some crosses with 'Great Expectations' and this past summer did some crosses with 'Sagae' and 'Guacamole'. "Only time will tell with these".

Dave doesn't baby his hostas...they live or die on their own. He "tries to keep them weeded" but doesn't worry about slugs. Problem hostas have been 'Spilt Milk' and 'Tattoo'. 'Golden Tiara' has been a particularly good grower - "almost a weed"!

Asked about favorite hostas, Dave says the list is long. I like large hostas and fragrant hostas. His current favorites are 'Sagae' and it's relatives and 'Guacamole' and its relatives. Denice's favorites are 'Whirlwind', 'Great Expectations' and 'Patriot'.

They have continued to grow many other plants: daylilies, sedum, Asiatic lilies, water lilies, ferns, wildflowers, grasses, brugmansia, orchids, cactus, amaryllis, coleus and assorted house plants. They have a 24' x 32' greenhouse in which to over winter the tropical plants.

The Cockers are charter members of SOGHS. They also belong to the American Hosta Society, Zumbrota Valley Horticulture Club, Minnesota Horticulture Society, and the Minnesota Arboretum.

They are "truly committed" gardeners!



The Gift That Kept on Growing

Submitted by Jeanne Truestedt

Forty years ago a wise but wily woman appeared on our doorstep with an ice cream pail of green and white leaves as a welcome gift. As naive newlyweds with a brand new home perched on a mound of weeds, mud and little else, the gift seemed somewhat impractical if not hopelessly useless. There was a little card tied to the pail that said this 'little plant' needed just a 'little space' in a shady, moist corner of the yard, and, if given a 'little care', it would turn our new house into a home in 'little time'.

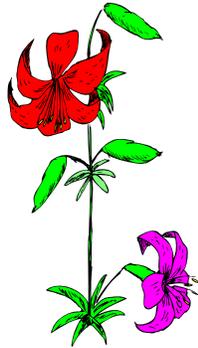
Over time that 'little' mound of leaves introduced 'hosta' into everyday usage as it grew into borders around gardens, got transplanted into public settings, was given to anyone who came to visit, helped with school planting projects from kindergarten through high school, and eventually moved across town to where it lives today taking up residence in almost every yard in the neighborhood. Like the Energizer bunny, it keeps on growing.

Most mature gardens produce many such potential 'little gifts', and avid gardeners give with a generosity that borders upon limitless. Sharing the process of growing with others gives opportunities to educate, share stories, and establish relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and even total strangers. It also keeps this planet growing for future generations as we pass on knowledge, growing techniques, and the art of nurturing these 'little things in life'. It is a 'little gift' of great worth.

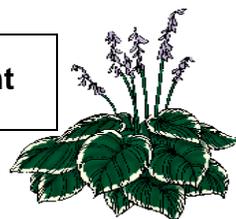
For the second time in our brief history, SOGHS became the recipient of great generosity. **Hugh and Ruth Cocker** shared a little of their lives and lots of their life long labors with us on a warm sunny afternoon in October. Although most of the plant materials will be sold for the spring plant sale, each of us took back to our gardens a deep red lily from Ruth as well as various other treasures to grow.

It is difficult to imagine the little girl Ruth selling flowers on the street for \$5 a day as the accomplished lily hybridizer of today -- but that is the story I'll remember when the red lily blooms next spring. Just as I'll see Hugh, with two artificial knees, working beside us digging up hosta from the side garden. While the legacy these two gardeners have passed on to SOGHS is great, the example they have set for the gardening community is gargantuan. And because you have entrusted us with caring for plant materials so special to you, we shall take over some of the more back breaking work so you can take time to visit, share your expertise, and sit down to watch the growth continue.

We thank you for sharing the wealth of your gardens with us and hope you will be mindful of the larger contribution you have made to the world as a whole. You patiently shared not only the skills and tricks of your trade, but you gave us your hopes, dreams and vision to make good things better. You gave freely, though it cost you time, energy, and frustration. For all that you are, for all that you do, and for being just who you are, we say a big thanks for all the 'little things'.



Hosta – The Friendship Plant



Propagating Hostas By Division Cutting

by Dr. Bill Roston

(Editor's Note: Dr. Roston of Forsyth, Mo, originally reported on these experiments in the "Show Me Hostas" newsletter of the St. Louis Hosta Society. This is reprinted with Bill's permission.)

Two years ago, along about the first of September, I was gazing out across the gardens and thought to myself, "What a waste! When frost comes, all these beautiful hosta are going to turn to mush." So I decided to take 100 cuttings.

I cut the divisions off right at the top of the crown, set the divisions in moist peat moss in one-gallon pots, then set the pots in a pan of water. In two or three weeks, 78 of the 100 divisions were starting to develop root systems. While splitting the hosta, I had broken a few of the divisions off without any roots. I threw some into the spring and in a couple of weeks they started to develop roots. I potted these divisions and put them in the greenhouse for two months to let their roots develop. I then put them outside and let them freeze. The next spring, they came back to life.

What did I do? I had 78 more hosta than I would have had if I hadn't taken the cuttings. The plants that I took the cuttings from came back like they normally do.

The following spring, after the growth started, I selected one Hosta 'Allen P. McConnell' that was in a pot and had 30 divisions. On the 10th of April, I cut off all these divisions and rooted 29 of them. This stimulated the dormant eyes of (the hosta) to start growing again. In six weeks, I was able to cut 20 more divisions off that one plant. They all rooted. Would you believe that I was able to take 12 more cuttings off that same plant that summer? I did fertilize the plant and I took the crown and planted it in the garden. The next spring, it came back with 18 divisions. I obtained 61 new plants from that one plant that summer.

With division splitting, the standard method of crown propagation, I might have obtained only 25 new plants from that one potted plant.

While I was experimenting with the potted 'Allen P. McConnell', I went through the gardens and took

Hosta 'Crested Surf' size 5 in. high



2,500 divisions from other plants. There was no noticeable difference on the plants in the gardens after taking these cuttings.

The vast majority of divisions (over 90 percent) rooted. You can take cuttings without lifting the plant from the ground. Just cut off the divisions at the top of the crown. You don't bother the root system. This is important for the growth of new divisions. Take the cutting and dip it into root hormone and set it in wet peat moss. Any sterile soil mix will work. Use a sterile knife and 10 percent bleach between cuttings. Keep your peat moss or sterile soil moist while roots are developing.



Sometimes when you cut off a division, there will already be roots on it. These accessory roots grow above the crown. If the top of the crown is fairly deep, you will have more of these accessory roots. If there are a lot of leaves on the division, most of them will die and the plant cutting will look as if it too will die. It will live. We are presently in our third year of division cuttings. We are doing research on the effect of cutting the divisions off and the effect this has on the dormant eyes in the base of the leaf stem. It doesn't appear to affect the next year's division numbers by cutting off the dormant eyes. In a few cases, even the dormant eyes that are cut off will start growing roots. Next year, we will know more about dormant eyes.

Want more hostas? Try division cutting.

Hosta 'Summer Serenade' 28 " high



COFFEE AND CATALOGUES



Put on some green, bundle up your garden catalogues, bring along garden and plant photos and head out to Country Buffet on March 17, 2007.

We will be there 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to share gardening and hosta tips. And, since it is on ST. Patrick's Day there may be a bit of blarney also.

This is a great way to get revved up for the hosta season. Also a great way to meet fellow society members.

Breakfast if on your own, if desired.

Late Blooming Hosta Photos taken Sep 28, 2006
'Soft Shoulders'



12 inches high



'Fall Bouquet'

10 inches high

SOGHS will offer members a chance to purchase **THE HOSTA FINDER- A Reference to Retail Prices and Locations.**

This is a great resource for locating sources of hard-to-find hostas. It also gives an idea of average prices for numerous hostas.

It gives information on several hosta retailers all over the country with addresses, web addresses, hours of operation and more. This is a great resource for buying or planning places to visit while on vacation...



Send Check for \$14.00 made out to **SOGHS** to **Jean Meyer, 10236 95th AV NW, Pine Island, MN 55963** with this form. Orders must be received by Mar 15, 2007. Delivery will be at the April 5 general meeting.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

copies _____ @ \$14.00 for a total of \$ _____

Don't miss your next newsletter:

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR SOGHS MEMBERSHIP NOW

Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast Minnesota

Website: www.SOGHS.org

2007 Membership Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

(Needed for emailing newsletter)

Cell# (optional) _____

Check a committee/s on which you are willing to serve:

Garden Tours

Program/Education

Membership/Promotion

Newsletter

Membership Information

(check any you have joined)

American Hosta Society Midwest Hosta Soc

Master Gardener

MN State Hort Society

Other _____

Membership Dues

(payable by calendar year/not prorated)

Single\$10/yr

Family.....\$15./yr

Submit form & payment to:

Shades of Green Hosta Society

5300 31st Ave SW

Rochester MN 55902

Hosta 'Sea Gulf'



'Lemon Twist'



'Alligator Shoes'