



## *The Hosta Leaf*

*of Southeastern Minnesota*

*Volume 1 Spring 2006*

# 1st Annual Plant Sale

## Hosta and Shade Loving PLants

Saturday, May 13, 8am to Noon

3617 First Street NW, Rochester (Country Club Manor)

Be sure to let all your friends know.

### **NEEDED**

Do your hostas or shade loving perennials need dividing?

Pot up your extras or wrap your bare root plants and donate them to our plant sale.

Bring your plants to Karen Noltee at 3617 1<sup>st</sup> ST NW, Rochester on Friday, May 12 from 4-8 pm. Please be generous.

**Volunteers also needed to help prepare plants and to staff the sale. Contact Karen Noltee 288-6730 or Cindy Tomashek 289-2614.**

### ***Enhance your garden***

**Some** of the hostas and plants available

Golden Waffles	undulata Variegata
Emily Dickenson	Lemon Lime
Lunar Eclipse	Royal Standard
Blue Arrow	Krossa Regal
Bright Lights	St. Elmo's Fire
Camelot	Lancifolia
Patriot	Golden Tiara
Tokudama Flav.	Ajuga "Chocolate Chip"
Zounds	var. Solomon's Seal
Super Nova	ferns
Fried Bananas	astilbes
Leather Sheen	turtlehead
Blue Mammoth	pulmonaria
Brave Amhearst	and much more

***VISIT THE SALE EARLY FOR  
BEST SELECTION!***

## Notes from the President

Greeting SOGHS Members!

Dan Hinckley, renown plant explorer and owner of Heronswood, an equally renown garden in Washington, once wrote that returning from a plant-finding expedition he was “drunk on chlorophyll”...kind of how I’m feeling these days watching hostas punch their way out of the ground, each shoot a tightly wound rocket heading toward the sky! Soon enough the leaves will begin to unfurl revealing another kind of splendor. The early risers, like H. ‘Chinese Sunrise’ and Montana ‘Aureo-marginata’ herald the coming of spring like no others! Our recent rainy weather will give a boost to our hostas and to the slug population.

If you don’t see slugs during the day, it doesn’t mean they aren’t lurking under leaf litter, mulch, or between the emerging shoots of your hosta. They prefer to do most of their feeding on cool nights or during damp, cloudy days, leaving slime trails on the ground and irregular holes in hosta leaves. Sometimes they chew right through the petiole sawing it off at ground level. They have tongues like sandpaper and can travel the distance of a city block in one night. If you are unsure the damage you see is from slugs (which are a mollusk) or an insect, insects usually feed from the edge of the leaf while slugs feed inside the leaf.

Clumps of slug eggs (small, round,



milky colored - to me they resemble a clump of Osmocote that hasn’t completely dissolved) can be found on or just below the soil). And don’t be fooled by those soft bodies, they are tough! Slugs over-winter in the ground and eggs don’t hatch for weeks or months until conditions are favorable. To make matters worse, as hermaphrodites slugs can procreate all by themselves if there aren’t other slugs to mate with. There are also woodland snails that feed on

plant material, although I haven’t found much information about them. The hundreds of empty snail shells in my woods indicate a once active population, but so far I have found only one live snail. The snail shells are approximately the size of a quarter or larger and mostly white.

If you start a control regimen early you will be far more successful. To manage slugs there are several options: Traps (beer or other traps), collect them/destroy them (place boards for them to hide under and then collect them, or pick them off plants at night, drop into a small bag of salt) or just cut them in half with a scissor (but the scissor gets pretty gross after just a few dissections); create an environment they don’t tolerate...sharp sand, diatomaceous earth, copper strips, crushed egg shells, etc. cut their slimy bodies - smart slugs turn and slime their way to friendlier fare. Or use commercial baits, but follow the directions on the packaging of any pesticide carefully, taking extra caution to keep yourself, your pets, fish and wildlife from harm (some slug baits are attractive to dogs, cats or birds and other wildlife). Of course, the last option is fun and friendly – just introduce some natural predators - toads, snakes, turtles, chickens, and ducks, among some beetles and fireflies (ok, just let the latter do their thing).

After trying nearly all of these methods I now rely on these: any slug I see is a dead slug and if I find more than I can slice, pierce, or crush, I turn to tactic number 2 – bait. Early applications of slug bait have been my best defense in areas where I find slug infestations. I also encourage toads and frogs by providing a place (my pond) for them to lay eggs. And this year I am going to try copper wire (because I have some extra lying around) to see if it deters slug feeding. Ask me sometime how the experiment is going! And remember...

The excitement is growing! Cindy

Visit

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG7561.html> for additional information



Slug feeding on Hosta

## **May 25      *Spring Gardens, Silent Auction and Plant Swap***

Silent Auction from 6-7 pm, visit gardens, and plant swap 6-8 pm

### ***Tours***

Two gardens are available for viewing on this Thursday evening. The auction and plant swap will take place at the Tomashek gardens.

#### **1. Cindy Tomashek Rochester gardens, 1288 Wicklow LN SW**

Our lot features an impressive limestone retaining wall and a sloping woodlot of mixed hardwoods (minus elms!). Four years ago, I started planting hosta and other shade plants in the woods on our lot - the foundation for our home hadn't even been dug yet, but the stakes for the house were in place. There wasn't a water connection at our new building site then, so a lot of plants suffered set-back, but survived. Today our lot is home to 400+ varieties of Hosta and hundreds of companion plants. Last summer I built three bridges (ok, Mike helped with one of them!), across the ravine that dissects our back woodlot. Stairways carved into the slope are under constant improvement, adding limestone to stabilize the steep slope. Goldfish thrive in our backyard pond and the plants have finally "settled in" and begun some serious growth. For me, gardening is all about working with native plants and interesting non-natives...like Hosta...which you will find in abundance!

#### **2. Paula Zollman garden, 2317 Lenwood DR SW, Rochester, MN**

A one acre partially wooded buckthorn reclaimed lot contains a newly established hosta garden greeting you along the south side of the drive. An extended shade garden frames the front yard with ground covers, epimedium, tiarella, arisaema and polygonatum to name a few. Next to follow is a small native flower/plant area established to protect plants from the north winds. A small kio pond adds soothing sounds and holds the interest of young at heart. Finally, stroll by a sun garden containing lilies, roses, coneflower and more. We welcome you to walk the paths in the woods and see how buckthorn removal looks after a few years. Re-established bluebells, ferns and snakeroot abound.

### ***Silent Auction 6-7pm***

Several items have been donated for the silent auction but more are needed. If you have items to donate please contact Cindy Tomashek at 289-2614 or at [Prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:Prestonplants@aol.com). They need not be plants.

### ***The Swap***

You will draw a number that determines when you get to choose your first round selection of plants. Numbers will be called in lots of 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc. This allows some order but it will move along quickly. Once everyone has one plant we will allow members who brought multiple plants to make a second choice (you will receive a separate colored ticket for the second round). The final round of selections will be open to everyone to choose from the remaining plants enough selections to equal what they brought (if you bring 5 plants to swap, you choose one in the first round, one in the second round, with three in the general final round).

Plants will be grouped by ultimate growing size, Giant, Large, Medium, Small, Mini/Dwarf, or companion perennial if necessary. Please label your plant (if you know the correct name, and include a description. Please also include your name as the donor.

Private Hosta Swap:

A private hosta swap area will be located away from the general swap area for members who have rare or valuable plants to swap for another hosta of equal value. Swaps will be made by agreement between the members.

## June and July Meetings - Garden Tours

Thanks the efforts of Casey Funk, and her committee we will have some great gardens to visit in the upcoming months. This is a chance to see many kinds of mature hostas and companion plants and to get lots of gardening ideas. We will all go home with lots of plans for our own gardens.

You are invited to visit each of these gardens on the day of the tour from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Please, no small children. Go to the gardens on your own. Each garden host is asked to stay and welcome garden tourists and answer any questions that may arise.

.Thursday, June 1

### **1. Casey Funk gardens: 1615 Teton CT NE, (Northern Heights area)**

Casey's shady yard has a downward slope which is a challenge for many of us. Her garden features several hostas and shade plants.

### **2. Linda Orloff gardens: 2116 8<sup>th</sup> AV NE, Rochester**

Small shaded yard with lots of hostas (and not a lot of grass). Also features a fairy garden with mini hostas, Japanese pond, pergola and more.

### **3. Nancy Brataas garden: 839 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ST SW, Rochester.**

The Brataas garden was designed in 1970 with a 120-foot long railroad tie wall, raised garden beds, brick patios, perennial shade plants, understory trees and evergreens, all installed between 1971 and 1973.

Since 1985, over a 150 varieties of Hosta have been growing to maturity and are now specimen plants. Since 1997, many of the 50 plus varieties of Clematis have been growing and are also specimen plants.

Since 2002, several varieties of both Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*) and Bugbane (*Cimicifuga*) which grow up to 10 feet tall have been planted and are nearing maturity.

In the back yard (in place of a 100-year old Elm tree removed due Dutch Elm disease in 2004) there is a new perennial bed with young climbing roses, several varieties of Clematis and other interesting plants.

Railroad tie steps lead to a path in a hillside woods which is planted with a wide selection of Hosta and ferns. Due to irregular railroad tie steps in the woods, visitors travel the steep path very carefully and at their own risk.

On June 1, dozens of azalea, and some clematis are likely to be in bloom. The Hosta will be in their full spring glory.

June tours continued

#### 4. Michelle Anderson garden, 2026 26<sup>th</sup> AV NW, Rochester

Townhouse garden with perennials, hostas, and annuals. Lots of containers on a large deck so there is variety and color of a much bigger garden. The small perennial bed gives another set of color and a nice play area for sun plants. For the hosta lover, there are over 25 plants to give the "Shades of Green" to the garden. Directions: From Hwy 52, take the 19th Street exit heading West (towards the Athletic Club). Take a right onto 26th Avenue. The 2nd right will take you into my circle. I am in the first building on the left. If there is no parking available in the circle, you can park on the West side of 26th Avenue.

#### 5. Vickie LeCocq garden: 1310 30<sup>th</sup> ST NW, Rochester.

My garden started in 1993 the spring my youngest child graduated from John Marshall and went off to college. She would no longer be home to mow and I didn't like doing the hillside. So I called Scott Moon and said, "Help me!" and the garden was started. I added four more retaining walls in addition to the ones Sargent's put in for us. When I went looking for plants I kept seeing all these beautiful flowers...Full Sun...Full Sun. **Full Sun I did not have.** With a maple that is 40 ft tall I had **No** full sun. (When you walk up to the house you don't notice the tree.) I soon learned about hostas. Then I learned about Shady Oaks. I took a couple trips over to drool over the hostas and some even made it home with me. I also learned about heuchera, and columbines. I try to add a couple plants to the yard every year.

I have opened my gardens to you not because I think it is so great but I want you to see the changes over the next couple years. I will be bricking my patio area and putting in water of some kind. It's in my head but I can't really describe it to you.

Come and see what is here and give me some input about what I can add and where. All suggestions are gladly accepted. I have only been a Master Gardener for two months and I know I don't know enough. I do have a couple noteworthy specimens for you to see.

*From the NW and NE* Use 37St to 18 Ave. Go south on 18 until 31 St. you will see John Adams Middle School. Take a left on 31 Just past JA the Street turns in 12 Ave. Over the crest of the hill look to your right and you will see 30 St. If you look left it will be Crescent Ln. My home is the forth from the corner on the left side of the street.

*From the SW:* Use HWY 52 until you come to 19/Ekton Hill exit. Go east on Elton hills. It should be two (long) block on your left. You will come to Elton Hills School and take a left on 15 Ave. You stay on 15 Ave because it turns into 30 St. You will come to a 4 way stop at Cascade but just keep going straight. When you crest the hill I am the fourth house on the right.

*From the SE:* Use Broadway until you come to Elton Hills drive. Go west on Elton hills. You will go past the Lutheran School on your right. You will need to be in the right lane because you take a right on 12 Ave. Cascade has a four way stop. Proceed until you come to 30St. It will be two more blocks from the stop sign. Take a left (if you look right you will see Crescent Ln.) My house is the forth on your left.

#### **Reminder Dubuque Bus Tour June 4**

The bus will be leaving from Wal Mart south **sharply at 6:30 am**.

Please arrive by 6:15 to facilitate loading the buses. The bus will not wait for arrivals after 6:30 am.

Don't forget to bring snacks, food and beverages that you will need throughout the day.

You will have the opportunity to buy some great hostas so bring along a wish list -- and will power.

## July 13 Garden Tour

### **Doris Amundson garden: 813 6<sup>th</sup> ST SE, Rochester.**

My garden is located on a small city lot next to park land and along the banks of Bear Creek. It is a cottage garden enclosed with a picket fence, consisting of hundreds of perennials that bloom from early spring to late fall. In early spring the wild flower garden welcomes spring with blues, yellows and pinks. Annuals are tucked in for added summer color. There is a hosta garden and a shaded woodland garden. Container plants surround the area to soften the rocky creek banks. Living wreaths and topiaries using succulents are present. Although I am majorly scaling back on the containers and more labor intense areas, there is always something to enjoy in my cottage garden.

### Mary and Vince Herring garden, 5500 Hwy 63 South, 288-4339

The Herring gardens contain more than 150 varieties of hostas. Mary has had hostas in her garden for years, but only in the last couple of years has been caught up in the excitement of collecting different varieties. The gardens are a work in progress and include a number of water features, including lily ponds, bogs and a large swimming pond that has an 8 ft waterfall and is home to 300 plus koi. The gardens also include 2 large iris beds, an oriental rock garden, a discovery bell walk, a sun and moon garden and many other garden sections. Tumbled paver paths lead you to gardens that feature 2000 plus coleus, 100's of impatiens, many varieties of dianthus and other annuals and perennials that we start from seed.

### Mary Ann Morris garden, 8450 Hwy 63 N, 288-6403

The garden, which has been developed to be responsive to the standard variety of light conditions (full sun to deep shade) and contains a wide variety of perennials, and shrubs. The largest single unique varieties of plants are 100+ roses, and 180+ Hosta. The Hosta portion of the garden, in general, has a 5 year maturity, though new hosta are added each year that are not at mature size yet. Hostas have been acquired through mostly regional and local sources. Hosta are seen in two main portions, a "hosta glen" under a stand of pine trees as you enter the property, and a second grouping on a hillside near the house under deciduous trees.

New Hosta offerings  
from Sargents:

**Stained Glass**

**Pilgrim**

**Twilight**

**Niagara Falls**

*The best way to garden is to put on a wide  
brimmed straw hat and some old clothes.  
And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink  
in the other, tell somebody else where to  
din*

The Minnesota Hosta Society  
Proudly presents  
A Hosta Show  
At the  
Como Park Conservatory  
St. Paul, Minnesota.  
July 8, 2006  
12 noon to 4:30 p.m.  
open to the public.  
The Hosta Show is accredited  
by The American Hosta Society

.The show will have several categories of exhibits: cut leaf exhibits, container grown hosta, trough/container gardens arranged for effect, educational displays, and non-competitive exhibits.

Catalogue and web pictures of hostas are helpful but a visit to a hosta show really brings home what the potential of a certain hosta might be.

And, if you have some great specimens yourself you may want enter them. Anyone who wishes to exhibit leaves, containers, troughs or educational displays may do so. Section and higher awards will be limited to AHS members. If such a winner is a nonmember they will be asked to join AHS. If they decline the award may be presented to the next qualified entry or left vacant.

Contact Kim Larsen at: [KimLarsen6@hotmail.com](mailto:KimLarsen6@hotmail.com) or 1-651-457-6208 for more information.

Hostas of the Year- as named by the American Hosta Growers Association

“Paradigm”, a large dark green edged sport of gold 'Abiqua Recluse', has heavy, dimpled leaves. Vigorous, it lives up to its name as a superb example of today's hostas. Registered in 1999, it ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in national popularity.

Hostas of the Year must grow well in all regions, be widely available, in good supply and be priced \$15. or less. This year's AHGA honoree is “Stained Glass”. Earlier standard-bearers were “Sum and Substance”, “Regal Splendor”, ‘June’, ‘Paul’s Glory’, ‘Fragrant Bouquet’, ‘Patriot’. Add ‘So Sweet’.

From Hosta Hotline, March 1, 2000, Mid-South Hostas Society

Spring does not  
arrive until the ice is  
out of the compost  
heap.

Shades of Green Hosta Society  
of Southeastern Minnesota

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**WEBSITE**

<http://www.soghs.org>

**MEMBERSHIP**

Shades of Green Hosta Society

\$10.00/yr individual, \$15.00 family  
Send dues to Mona Keehn  
1635 Chippewa Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

## *Calendar*

- May 12 bring plants for plant sale
- May 13 Plant sale, 3617 1<sup>st</sup> ST NW, Rochester  
8 am to noon
- May 25 Spring Tour, Silent Auction, Plant Swap  
1288 Wicklow Ln SW, Rochester  
6-7 auction, 6-8 tour and swap
- June 4 Dubuque Bus Tour, leave 6:30 am sharp
- June 14-17 AHS national convention, King of Prussia, PA
- July 8 Minnesota Hosta Society Hosta Show
- July 13 Garden Tours
- July 13-15 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention  
Brown Deer, Wisconsin
- August 10 Garden Tours
- Sept 9 Founder's Day Potluck Picnic 11 am-3pm  
Tomashek Gardens, Preston, MN
- Oct 5 General Meeting

### 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.midwesthosta.org](http://www.midwesthosta.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](http://www.hosta.org)