



The Hosta Leaf

of Southeastern Minnesota

Volume 4 Issue 6 Oct-Dec 2009



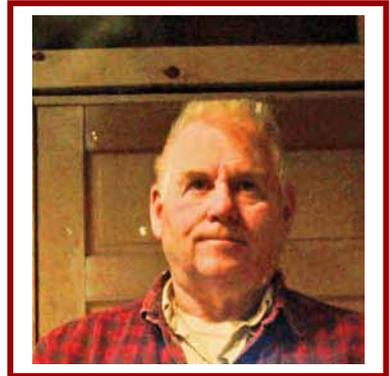
October Meeting Thursday Oct 1 6:45 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
550 20th St. SW, Rochester, MN

featuring guest speaker **Ran Lydell**

Oriental Gardening: The Chinese vs. Japanese approach and their influence on modern garden design

Ran Lydell
Eagle Bay Gardens
2892 Main Rd. (Rt. 20)
Sheridan, NY
Nursery:
10749 Bennett Rd.
Dunkirk, NY 14048



Ran notes that much of modern garden design is influenced by Asian thinking. His talk will focus on trying to understand how we are influenced by the oriental use of plants and hardscape in our own gardens. Ran is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker with a wealth of information on hostas and interesting plants of all types and a background in landscaping.

Ransom (Ran) Lydell has worked professionally for 54 years in the horticulture industry. His first venture was in high school in 1955 when he started a nursery business. He went on to get a degree in applied science, horticulture from SUNY Alfred. He has worked for nurseries, builders, taught classes, and had a gardening series on public radio. In 1967 he was awarded The President's Award for outstanding landscaping in 1967 from Mrs. Nixon.

In 1969 he purchased Cooks Nursery and Started Eagle Bay Gardens in 1975.

Ran belongs to numerous gardening societies including the Genessee Valley Rock Garden Society, Genessee Valley Hosta Society, the Eastern Conifer Society, New England Cactus Society, Northern Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society, The Buffalo Area Daylily Society and The Tri State Hosta Society

He presently serves on the board of the American Growers Association and has been on the board of the American Hosta Society. He has served as the vending chair for the Great Lakes Hosta Society for many years and is vice president of the Western New York Hosta Society.

Ran has hybridized 43 varieties of hosta. Some are sold worldwide. He also hybridizes daylilies. Below are just 2 of his introductions. See more on his website.



H. 'Zero Tolerance'



H. 'June Bug'

VISIT

If you are ever traveling through western New York near the south end of Lake Erie be sure to visit Ran and his wife Katie and their Eagle Bay gardens. The showplace gardens house an extensive collection of rare plants of all kinds and 2000 some hostas.

Be sure to visit Ran's website:
<http://eaglebaygardens.com/>

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cindy Tomashek



The Founder's Day Picnic was blessed with great weather and fantastic donations to the Silent Auction and door prize offerings. Most of all, about 50 enthusiastic SOGHS members and guests enjoyed the tasty fare offered for the picnic...it was all mm - mm good!

Many thanks to the following donors: Pat Ferguson (her donations brought in the highest total), Jean and Gerry Meyer, Dave and Denice Cocker, Mona and Rick Keehn, Carrie Bakken, Tricia and Jon Burton, Pat Ostby, Jeanne and Horst Truedstedt, Bob and Nancy Solberg (Green Hill Farm), and Doris Amundsen. This year we raised over \$350, an increase of \$100 over last year's auction!! Thanks again to all donors - and bidders - for supporting SOGHS and our terrific programs!

Speaking of programs, we will be hosting guest speaker, Ran Lydell of Eagle Bay Hostas, at our October 1 meeting (6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 559 20th St SW, Rochester). Don't miss what is sure to be a great educational event! Ran will present "Oriental gardens: Japanese and Chinese and the difference between them".

During our business meeting I'll be appointing a Nominating Committee to fill the following positions:

President,
(2nd) Vice-President,
Secretary/Historian,
Newsletter Editor,
Annual Plant Sale Director,
and Web Master.

We also need an interim Tour Director (1st VP) for 2010 (a great way to check out how our Executive Board operates with a minimal term commitment!!).

If there are no volunteers, I will draw names to serve on the Nominating Committee, so be prepared to volunteer!

As a reminder to current Executive Board members, our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 pm at my house.

Are you enjoying the deep yellows of some of your hosta leaves? The past few weeks of warm sunshine and calm breezes have been dazzling, but without moisture we are facing another drought. My sprinklers and hoses have been very busy delivering water to the new trees and shrubs I added to our Preston yard when late season bargains were offered at local nurseries. It's also important to continue watering your hostas through this dry spell or you may be greeted by smaller plants next spring.

Please check out the Convention Connection update in this newsletter! We are choosing our 2012 logo at our next meeting –CHANGE OF VENUE – we can now meet at the Ramada on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10:00-11:30 am in the SYMPOSIUM!!

If you have a logo idea, either submit it to me prior to the meeting or bring it with you! The winner receives a \$25.00 gift certificate redeemable from Bob Solberg/Green Hill Farm.

With the gardens getting ready to rest, it's time to find excitement in great gardening info – be sure to come to the meeting on Oct. 1!

Cindy



H. 'Bridal Veil' photo by Jean Meyer
Weber Garden, Midwest Meeting, IL 2009



H. 'Tattoo' by Linda Orleff
Guardia garden, AHS National Meeting, MI
2009

Places to Go. People to Meet. Heading places east on the interstate?

Jean and Gerry Meyer

Reed's Valley Hosta Gardens

4221 Jackpot Av, Sparta, WI

<http://www.reedsvalleyhostagardens.com/>

Joan Dotzenrod has visited this hosta garden and nursery in the Sparta, WI area a few times and was very pleased with the experience.

The owners, Jeff and Lynne Reed, test grow all the hostas they offer a couple of years before offering them to the public. Plants are grown in pots and banked in raised beds throughout their wooded gardens. They have established a Hosta of the Year bed with each year represented. They also have a sunny garden and offer daylilies and other sun loving plants for sale.

This is a little off the beaten path but not all that hard to find. It is just a few miles past Shades of Green in La Crosse. If you are headed to points east on the interstate be sure to make a little side trip to Reed's.

The Flower Factory 608-873-8320

4062 County Rd A, Stoughton, WI

<http://www.theflowerfactorynursery.com/>

Just south of Madison by Oregon, WI this is a great place to go for perennials of all kinds. They offer an unbelievable range of plant material for all gardening enthusiasts: rock, water, sun, shade, prairie, ferns, etc. They have a large selection of hostas and all the companion plants you can think of and several you will come to love. Beware. This place is addictive.

Al's Autobody and Arboretum 262-275-2800

W6866 North Walworth Road

Walworth, Wisconsin 53184 (east of Beloit)

<http://alsautobodyandarboretum.com/>

Al's was mentioned in the Mid-South Hosta Society newsletter in an article by Larry Tucker. It sounded interesting so we decided we had to check this one out. East of Beloit and near Delavan, WI, this is tucked away in the country. They have a large garden area (arboretum) with over 400 different hostas to stroll through. They have a spring "Hosta Fest Sale" offering over 100 different hostas last year. A great little side trip easily combined with the stop below.

Concrete Lawn Ornaments 608-365-3223

9336 S Butterfly LN, Beloit, WI

Just a mile or so east of Beloit off Hwy 43 this place offers concrete lawn statuary at a very reasonable price. Many of his products are more detailed than commonly seen. The inventory is not as large as some outlets but it is more interesting than most also.



Hosta-tality

October Meeting

Bring on the Treats

The public will be invited to attend this last meeting of the year on October 1. That means we will be doing the 'Trick of eating Treats off from napkins' style of serving.

So pumpkin bars, cookies, and quick breads (precut, please) would be much appreciated for the Hosta-tality Table.

Contact Jeanne Truestedt with any questions.



Photo Contest Reminder

Our beautiful summer is slowly winding down but there may still

be opportunities to photograph the hostas in your garden.

Despite the multitude of summer hail storms, continuous onslaught of slugs, and almost month long drought, there are hardy hostas still thriving. And what better time to capture their beauty than with their fall companions -- turtlehead, yellow waxbells, hibiscus, geraniums, rudebekia, mums, and asters -- especially if they've picked up a little fall colors themselves.

The deadline for the photo contest is **midnight December 31st**. If you haven't entered in the past, take the time this winter to look through your summer garden snapshots and submit a photo or two. You are not limited to just pictures of your garden. You can send in pictures you've taken of hostas in tour gardens or even pictures you've taken on vacation. The only requirements are that there must be an identified hosta in the picture and you took the picture yourself this year.

Don't forget to include your name, the title of the picture, the name of the hosta(s), and the location it was taken.

If you need an incentive, the prizes are fabulous again this year. The grand prize is an autographed copy of Mark Zilis's The Hostapedia.

Send digital photos by email to: linda@orleff.com or by mail to: Linda Orleff, 2116 8th Ave NE, Rochester MN 55906. If you have any questions, call Linda at (507) 282-0243.

Garden Notes



Fall.

Time to ----

Right when the plants are sagging, our energy is flagging and some of us might actually be hoping for a hard freeze, we are reminded that we still have some garden chores we should attend to.

Labor Day is the time to start thinking lawn renewal. If any of you have lawn you should fertilize one last time, aerate and dethatch and give a last spray for broadleaved weeds. This is a good time to go after that bothersome Creeping Charlie if you still haven't accepted it as a charming groundcover. If you still like grass, get the fall seeding down now as the cooler temps and dewy mornings are great for a better germination and a good take. Be sure to keep the lawn watered if our droughty conditions persist and you do this maintenance work.

It is also a great time for that last minute dividing and moving of perennials. Just remember to water in well through the fall. Mulch *after the* ground is frozen. You want to keep the ground cold well into next spring avoiding the heaving of plants due to warming and cooling of the soil.

Pots, Pots, Pots

If you have tender perennials in your pots you will want to decide whether to carry over or start over next year. If overwintering, be sure to take appropriate steps before the hard frost. Repot now in smaller pots for indoor carry over or get the big heavy pot closer to the door for when the frost warning comes. Hardy perennials in pots can be planted in the ground or overwintered in the pots. Keep watered and mulch.

Overwintering hostas in pots? First, make sure they are labeled well. Be sure to keep them moist but not soggy wet. As the plants die down be sure to remove all the dead foliage. Place them in a spot where they will not be subject to warming and freezing. Mulch heavily with marsh hay.

Some suggest laying pots on sides to make sure they do not become waterlogged from too much snow or precipitation collecting in the pots over time. (Note: You also do not want to let them dry out. Keep an eye on them next spring as the weather warms.)

You can also put the potted plants in an unheated shed or garage but you may want to wrap or cover with a Styrofoam sheet or insulation blanket to keep light off the pots. The hostas need both cold and dark for a winter rest.

Keep watering all those hostas and trees and shrubs planted in the last 1-5 years. Many are stressed due to our low rainfall this year. 1- 1 ½ inches of water or rain per week should be supplied through the fall. Check the heavier clay soils though so that they don't get water logged

It is time to take a good look at tools, also. You might have to find all of them first. Clean shovels, hoes, and rakes of soil and any rust. You may want to spray with a rust inhibitor. Sand rough handles and reseal by painting or finish of choice. Sharpen cutting and pruning tools. Clean up the lawn mower and, oh yes, get the snow blower ready to go.

Remember to detach and drain hoses before hard freezes. Clean out and winterize irrigation lines. Clean out gutters when the last of the leaves seem to have fallen.

Finally, that last fall clean-up. Many experts recommend removing spent foliage to remove diseased leaves and slug eggs laid at the base of the petioles. This is usually easier after a couple of frosts when the material can be more easily pulled away (and you would rather be planning your migratory snowbird route). Do not compost but dispose of material instead.



H. 'Enterprise'
Hanner Garden, MI, AHS 2009



H. 'Great Lakes Gold'
Wilkins Garden, MI, AHS 2009



H. 'Curtain Call'
Wilkins Garden, MI, AHS 2009



Lloyd and Joan Meyer



Ron and Connie Neuman



H. 'Yin'

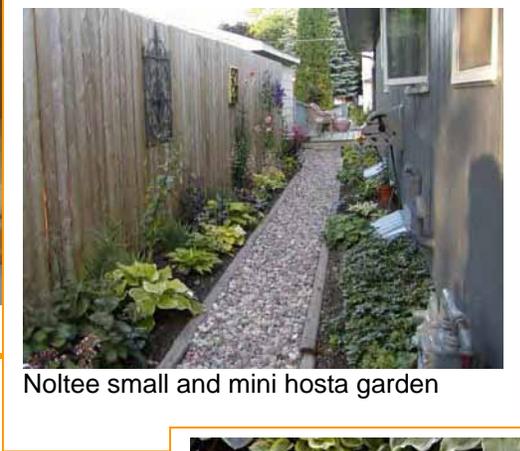
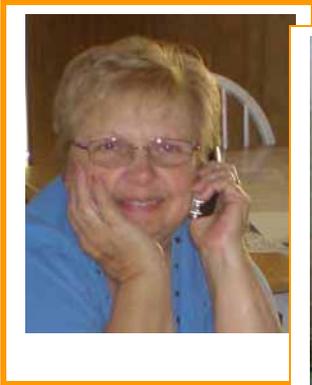


H. 'Frosted Jade' and 'On Stage'

Thank You! July and August Garden Hosts for sharing your gardens with us



Kim Greene and George Eckman



Noltee small and mini hosta garden



H. 'Rainbow's End'



Dan and Kelly Tweite



H. 'Salute'



Bill's Hidden Pot Trick

By Ray Rogers
Central Illinois Hosta Society



I recently came across an article authored by Bill Jarvis, a Houston, Texas hobbyist / hybridizer of daylilies, entitled Bill's "Hidden Pot" Trick, see <http://www.ofts.com/bill/hidpot.html>.

I'm guessing most of you reading this are thinking Bill's article is about placing potted plants in the garden to shield them from aggressive tree roots and / or voles, as this is a trick often used by hosta enthusiasts. If so, you are incorrect.

Bill's use of plastic nursery pots is unlike any I can remember hearing of. Although the writing specifically pertained to daylilies, the same basic principles could apply to other plants, including hostas.

He purchased a quantity of 5-gallon black plastic pots, cut off the bottom 2/3 of each, which left a circular plastic ring about 4-5 inches deep (see picture). He then placed a ring around each individual clump of daylilies, sinking it about half way into the dirt. When finished, the daylilies looked like they were growing in pots which had been sunk in the ground.

I'm guessing most hosta gardeners wouldn't like this appearance, but with a layer of mulch outside the rings, combined with seasonal foliage maturation, the rings would virtually disappear.

Bill's stated advantages include:

- When watering daylilies, water would run down to the lower places in the bed resulting in uneven distribution. The ring around the plant now prevents the water from leaving the area where the roots are concentrated. *Note: Even after a good rain, the root zone under some hostas' foliage often remains dry.*

- In the spring, Bill liked to give his lilies a boost by applying a tea made from fish emulsion and other organic nutrients. This liquid is applied to the roots of each clump individually and if applied too fast, would drain away from the plant before it could sink into the soil. He now can just dump in the required amount quickly and go on to the next plant. The ring keeps the formula from draining away and it sinks right down to the roots. *Note: Haven't we all experienced this dilemma?*
- According to Bill, when a daylily becomes infected by crown rot, completely soaking the roots with the systemic fungicide Subdue is necessary to save the plant. The ring allows him to quickly make sure the roots get completely drenched.
- The final benefit is to keep the mulch from getting too close to the plant. *Note: Keeping mulch away from the base of hostas helps to prevent Crown Rot and/or Petiole Rot*

If not receptive to purchasing 5-gallon pots, rings cut from smaller pots can be used for small and mini hostas.

For those of you that are willing to try this technique on just a few plants, I suggest first trying this on hostas that are believed to need just a little extra attention to grow well. Also, those gardening on slopes may find this method particularly advantageous.

A number of gardeners save plastic nursery pots for various reasons and would likely be happy to share.

Shades of Green Hosta Society
of Southeastern Minnesota
WEBSITE

<http://www.soghs.org>

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MEMBERSHIP

**Shades of Green Hosta Society
\$10.00/yr individual, \$15.00 fam**

Send dues to:

SOGHS/Karen Nolte

3617 1st St NW

Rochester, MN 55901

2009 Calendar

- Sep 26 10 a.m. Convention Planning Meeting
Home Cindy Tomashek
1288 Wicklow LN SW, Rochester MN
- Oct 1 Member meeting, Ran Lydell speaker
6:45 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
559 20th ST SW, Rochester
- Oct 10 Lily Sale, MN Lily Society **10 am**
Northstar Lily Society
Bachman's Heritage Room • 6010 Lyndale Ave S Minneapolis,
- Nov 17 6:30 pm SOGHS Exec Board Meeting- Budget requests due
At Cindy Tomashek's 1288 Wicklow LN SW, Rochester
- Dec 14 Executive Board Year End Reports Due
- Feb 4 SOGHS Annual Meeting
- 2012 'Operation Hosta' Midwest Hosta Convention
Rochester, MN



H. 'Alligator Shoes' photo by Jean Meyer
Carson Garden AHS National, MI 2009

Other Important Hosta Memberships

Midwest Regional Hosta Society
\$20./2yr Send dues to
Peter Postelwaite
2112 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047

1-847-438-7790

www.MidwestHostaSociety.org

American Hosta Society
1 yr \$30. Individual/ \$34. Family
2 yrs \$57. Ind/ \$62. Family
3 yrs, Ind/\$80.

Send dues to: Sandie Markland,
AHS membership Sec.

Post Office Box 7539

Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

www.americanhostasociety.org

SOGHS Membership Renewal

Reminder: SOGHS memberships are annual, January 1 thru December 31 of each year.

Individual memberships are \$10, family memberships are \$15.



Karen Nolte

Membership renewal notices are being sent to members, via email and snail mail, whose dues are not paid for 2010. If you have questions regarding the status of your membership, please contact Karen Noltee at 288-6730 or gramaki@charter.net.

So that you continue to receive SOGHS newsletters, notices of meetings/events and have access to the members only section of our Website after **January 1, 2010, be sure you have renewed your membership by December 15, 2009!**

For your convenience memberships can be renewed for 2010 at the October 1st Meeting/program!



H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'
Greene/Eckman Garden



H. 'Halcyon' Yunginger garden



H. 'Camelot' Tweite Garden



H. 'Donahue's Piecrtust'
Neuman Garden



H. 'Tutu' in Neumann garden