

THE HOSTA LEAF

A Newsletter of Shades of Green Hosta Society

Rochester, MN

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AHS Merit Award Winner

By Mona Keehn

The Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, the highest award offered by the American Hosta Society, was given to our own Cindy Tomashek at the 2019 AHS Convention in Green Bay this past month. This award is presented to a member of the Society in recognition of outstanding service to the American Hosta Society, the development of the genus Hosta or both.

Cindy's H. 'Piedmont Honey,' which she registered in 2007, received the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta award. The name of the hosta appears on the plaque Cindy received.

We had a fantastic representation of SOGHS at the recent Green Bay convention. I think there were 24 of us and of those, 11 were first-time attendees. What a great surprise for all of us when Cindy Tomashek was announced as the winner. Her acceptance speech was amazing and very enlightening. (See AHS, Continued on Page 2.)



Above: Mary Schwartzbauer, left, presents Cindy Tomashek with AHS award. Below: SOGHS members in attendance in Green Bay, WI.



Photos Courtesy Joe Parisi

AHS Merit Award Winner, 2019 :

Cindy Tomashek

(Continued from Page 1)

Hopefully, it will soon be posted on the AHS website.

It would take so much to list all of her accomplishments, but the one that hit me the most, is when the comment was made that when she couldn't find a local club to join, she took it on herself and founded Shades of Green Hosta Society of SE MN! We have all benefitted from this group. We have had so much fun, learned so much, discovered so many beautiful gardens, been introduced to many hosta shopping experiences, and most of all, we've made many, many, new friends.

The beautiful hosta that Cindy designated as her Distinguished Merit Hosta, H. 'Piedmont Honey,' has had very little distribution and is not on the market for sale. Coincidentally, she brought a very large division of it for auction which was held two nights BEFORE the banquet, and it brought in the highest single bid of \$425! What a great testimony to her choice.

How did H. 'Piedmont Honey' get its name? It is a sport of H. 'Piedmont Gold' and Honey was the name of Cindy's since-departed kitty, her faithful garden companion.

I can't think of anyone who deserves this honor more. She truly has promoted the genus Hosta – the friendship plant!

- Mona Keehn



President's Message

By Kathy Rustad

What a spring for hostas! The April (and May and June) rains really made for a bumper crop of hostas this year. I don't know about you, but I am more than willing to water my own garden if Mother Nature will only turn off her spigot.

With gardening season in full swing, I hope that between raindrops you are managing to enjoy many outdoor activities. Beginning with a wonderful kick-off in Cindy Tomashek's beautiful Rochester garden, car pool trips and our annual Hosta Plant Sale, the SOGHS summer fun has just begun. Plan to visit our member gardens on the members-only tours. They are sure to be spectacular! And don't forget the Founder's Day Picnic will be one week later this year on Saturday, September 14th. Also, our October member meeting will be one week later, on Thursday, October 10. Mark your calendars.

An outstanding SOGHS representation was made at the 51st annual American Hosta Society (AHS) Convention in Green Bay, WI. In attendance were 24 enthusiastic SOGHS members who were overjoyed to see our founder, Cindy Tomashek, receive the highest AHS recognition given, the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. It was a memorable event, and we are so proud of our fearless leader! But I won't say any more as there is a beautifully written article all about this well-deserved recognition beginning on Page 1 of this newsletter.

So, if you have not attended an AHS Convention in the past, I encourage you to mark your calendar for next year as our friends in the Twin Cities are hosting the event June 18-20, 2020, in Brooklyn Park, MN! It will be three full days of hosta enthusiasts sharing knowledge, gardens and fellowship. Who could ask for a more glorious way to enjoy summer?

The bumper crop of hostas brought one of our best years ever for our annual Hosta Plant Sale! Thanks to the leadership of our co-chairs, Jen Magera and Paula Zollman, and to an outstanding job by our hosta dig leader, Paul Koeller, we had one of the best years in plant diversity, quantity and sales. Also, we had a generous donation by Jim and Sheila Hartmann, from Plymouth, MN, who had attended the 2012 Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention held in Rochester. Their donation of over 64 different varieties of 320 individual hostas was a big hit! And, as always, the SOGHS membership came through in a huge way. A sincere "Thank-you" to each of you who volunteered hostas, time and energy to make this such a successful event!!!

Finally, as Paul Harvey used to say, "The rest of the story...." You may recall from the January newsletter that I told of overwintering two hostas in my unheated garage. Well, the results are in and one of the two came through magnificently! The other, not so much. What I learned is: 1 – Don't forget to add a handful of snow each month to each hosta; 2 – Insure the roots are well established in the pot for best success. The hosta that did not make it was only recently planted in the pot. With this in mind, I am ready to give this another try with a few more hostas this fall but only those I have planted early in the season. Wish me luck.

Until we meet again, have a wonderful summer!



Mike Shadrack, October Speaker

The speaker for our October 10th meeting program (Please note that the October meeting date has been changed.) is Mike Shadrack, a well-known expert in the hosta world, who will talk on Eight English Gardens. Mike and his wife, Kathy, have been residents of Western New York since 2005, where their Smug Creek Gardens comprise 13 wooded acres that include hundreds of hostas, extensive collections of iris and daylilies, and a shallow creek that provides a setting for several different gardens with lillium, arisaema, specimen trees, spring ephemerals and many other bulbs and perennials.

Mike has been growing hostas since 1986 and has been trying to hybridize almost as long. He came to hostas through his fish-keeping hobby, when the beauty of hostas reflected in garden ponds drew his attention.

In 1996, Mike retired from London's Metropolitan Police. He is a qualified London Tourist Board Guide and has organized garden tours in England and specialized hosta tours stateside.

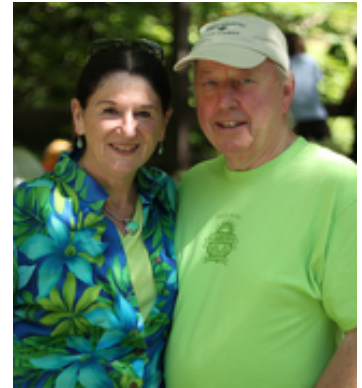
Mike's passion for photography has resulted in over 8,000 hosta photos that form the basis for many of his publications. The books he has authored include: *The New Encyclopedia of Hostas*, published in 2010; *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*, authored with Diana Grenfell in 2004; Timber Press *Pocket Guide of Hostas*, published in 2004; and with his wife Kathy, *The Book of Little Hostas*, published in 2007.

Mike is well known in the hosta world. He is recipient of the 2017 Alex J. Summers Merit Award from The American Hosta Society (AHS). He is President of the Western New York Hosta Society. He has been a member of the AHS since 1992 and has served on its board for eight years. As a longtime member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society, he has served as former Chairman and currently as Executive Bulletin Editor. Mike also is a member of the Board of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and chairman of their Plant Collection Committee, as well as chairman of the Events Committee and board member of Garden Walk Buffalo Niagara.

His talks are colorful and entertaining, and certainly not to be missed. Bring your books for him to autograph!

His wife, Kathy Guest Shadrack, has been gardening intensively for over 35 years and claims that her favorite plant is "whatever is in bloom." She says that she is not a hosta person, but "married into hostas," and recently wrote *The Book of Little Hostas*, published in November 2010. Kathy is a member of several plant organizations and helped to establish the Buffalo Area Daylily Society. She is a former board member of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and the AHS and currently serves on the board of the Western New York Hosta Society. She also volunteers for Garden Walk Buffalo Niagara. - **Chris Parisi,**

Programs/Education



Don Mitchell, Hummingbird Expert, to Speak at February Meeting

Don Mitchell, hummingbird expert and bander, will speak at the SOGHS February 6, 2020, member meeting. He is well known in the ornithology world for banding hundreds of hummingbirds and for providing important insights on how to attract them to our yards and keep them as annual visitors. His insights will help us determine the ideal flowers, trees and shrubs to attract these tiny birds and the best habit to fill your feeders to keep them coming year after year.

Don has a Master of Science Degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota and has conducted studies of hummingbirds and the plants they pollinate in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and California. He also has served as the vice-president of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and is a Goodhue County Master Gardener. He currently works as a land records coordinator for Goodhue County. His interest in hummingbirds stems from a field biology course he took as an undergraduate in California, when he was investigating the pollinators of delphinium plants in the wild and working with calliope hummingbirds, the smallest migratory bird in the world.

His talk will explain how hummingbirds hover and extract nectar and their useful role in pollinating thousands of species of plants in Minnesota, including the eastern columbine, Indian paintbrush, jewelweed and cardinal flower. He also will provide information about the various types of hummingbirds, noting that Minnesota and Wisconsin are home to only one kind: the ruby throated hummingbird.

Personally, I have noticed hummingbirds enjoying nectar from tubular hosta flowers every summer and so I never cut them, allowing the blooms to linger. Please plan to attend what promises to be an enjoyable and educational presentation!

- **Chris Parisi, Programs/Education**

Spring Seminar: Gardening for the Health of It

Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS) was proud to partner with the Rochester Garden and Flower Club, Olmsted County Master Gardeners and RCTC Horticulture Program to present a full day of education and fun for the second consecutive year!

The registration of 131 was up from the 108 last year. Attendees chose three sessions from 12 possible topics.

The day was kicked-off by keynote speaker Chef Chris Rohe from Prescott's Restaurant in Rochester. Chef Rohe discussed growing fresh produce for the restaurant. He opened the floor to questions from the audience and provided an often humorous view of his "farm to table" experience.

New this year was a vending area with eight vendors selling garden-inspired crafts from herbal soap, jams and artwork to lilies, succulents, bird houses and more!

SOGHS was active in the event with a membership table and door prizes. Lucky winners received one of the following: an autographed copy of *Field Guide to Hostas* by Mark Zilis; SOGHS 1-year membership; two \$25 gift certificates to the 2019 SOGHS Hosta Plant Sale; SOGHS Logowear; and hostas (ordered from Bob Solberg): H. 'Cracker Crumbs,' H. 'Blue Perfection,' H. 'Imperial Palace,' H. 'Sharp Dressed Man,' H. 'Fire Island,' H. 'Paradigm' and H. 'First Frost.' Bob also donated H. 'Twice as Nice.'

If you were not able to attend this year, mark your calendars for April 18th, 2020! The Spring Garden Seminar committee has already begun preparations for another great day of gardening fun!

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider volunteering to help with this event. If you are available, please contact me, **Kathy Rustad**, at KDRustad@Gmail.com - **Kathy Rustad, President**



Watch for Scratch and Dent Sale In August

Please watch the SOGHS website for information and order forms for our upcoming Scratch and Dent membership sale offerings. Bob Solberg is working with SOGHS once again to put together four hostas that haven't been offered in the past to our membership. The information will be posted mid to late August on the SOGHS website, SOGHS.com. The leaves might look a little worn out when they arrive but remember It's All About The Roots! Thank you for supporting SOGHS with your purchases.

-Sue Martino, Membership Fundraising Chair

Hostas and Education at the Garden Fair

In keeping with our mission of education, we hosted an information booth at the Garden Fair on Saturday, June 1st. It was well worth the time as we advertised the SOGHS Hosta Sale, gave away free Francee Hostas, educated the public on this beloved friendship plant and later sold \$330 worth of hostas graciously brought over from the Hosta Plant Sale by Rick and Mona Keehn. We raised a little money, but more importantly, we spread the hosta love. –Kathy Rustad, President



Founder’s Day Picnic: September 14

Please don’t forget to think about bringing donations for the auctions at our yearly Founder’s Day Picnic at the Tomashek Farm in Preston.

Sue Martino Membership Fundraising Chair

Tool Time Talk

Disclaimer: This is not an ad for the Root Slayer Shovel, but because so many hosta lovers have been bragging about it this summer, we had to share the details.

A quick Google search shows Root Slayer shovels are available from numerous vendors, both online and in stores.

One product description says: “The award winning Root Slayer is a multi-purpose shovel that can eliminate the need for other tools, such as hatchets, pry-bars, and saws, when simply digging around the home. You can use the Root Slayer as your go-to shovel or to replace your nursery spade.”

Sounds useful for digging through those tough, fibrous hosta roots, right? If you’ve tried this tool, let us know what you think. Slices through roots like butter? That would be nice!



Thanks to HOTY Helpers

What a fantastic group of people who braved Minnesota’s final spring snow to come out and assemble the HOTYS orders for 2019. Twenty hands made quick work of this year’s orders. The sale was a success and we added five new hosta varieties to our beautiful gardens.



We are looking forward to the upcoming **Scratch and Dent Sale** in August with plants from Bob Solberg. Watch the SOGHS website for hosta choices, pick-up times/locations and order forms for this upcoming membership sale. Thank you for your support of The Shades Of Green Hosta Society. - Sue Martino, Membership Fundraising Chair



Photos by Joe Parisi



Wow! What a Great Sale We Had

This year's SOGHS annual Hosta Plant Sale was magnificent. We had generous donations coming in from so many people, but of particular note are our members who donated nearly 300 hostas EACH: Denise and Dave Cocker, Jean and Jerry Meyer and Deanna Nash. Their donations and commitment to our club humble us. While not all members are able to donate this volume, including us, the donation of five hostas from each club member made the number of beautiful plants at the sale swell.

In addition to the hostas donated by our club members, SOGHS received a substantial donation of hostas from a couple in Plymouth, MN. This donor had toured some of our members' gardens when SOGHS hosted the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention some years ago. He was so impressed that the gardens were maintained by their owners and not outside help. This donor's ability to take care of his gardens has declined, and he felt it was time to pass his beloved plants to others who would properly care for them. This donation included rare and old varieties that are difficult to find. The number of divisions from their garden totaled 320.

None of the above Plymouth donations could have occurred without Paul Koeller's dig team. Paul went to multiple homes of our members to dig hostas, and he also traveled to Plymouth, MN. Paul worked diligently all of May to procure hostas for the sale. Our hats are off to Paul and all of his team for their hard work. His efforts helped us achieve one of the top 10 sales for SOGHS.

A final accolade goes to Mona and Rick Keehn for opening their gardening shed so we could pot the 320 hosta donations from Plymouth. Additionally, the Keehns tended the plants until the sale and then transported them to the sale site.

The sale contained over 274 varieties, our largest selection ever! Approximately 121, a third, of all the hostas at the sale, were varieties never offered at one of our sales before. Two rare hostas from the Plymouth dig were held back to be auctioned off during the Founders' Day event. Be sure to come to the picnic to make your bids!

Thank you to everyone who supported us before and during the sale. You are too numerous to mention. SOGHS is only as strong as its members' contribution of plants, time and energy, and you were very generous and gracious.

Thank you - **Jenifer Magera and Paula Zollman, Plant Sale Co-Chairs**



Shop Hopping for Plants

On Tuesday, April 30, a group of plant finders went to St. Charles to visit the Amish nurseries. We left early from Deanna Nash's home and with Dorothy Wichman's help we headed down gravel roads to find some of the many nurseries around St. Charles. The nurseries there offer many beautifully made hanging baskets for very reasonable prices. They also have a nice selection of affordable annuals and perennials.

Some of us never made it past the first place we stopped, Valley View Greenhouse, because we filled our cars with colorful treasures and there was no room for more! Others in our group showed more restraint at Valley View and proceeded to a few more nurseries where they found other great plants. Thanks so much, Dorothy, for all your help.

Our next car pool trip was on Saturday, May 4, to Iowa. That day we went to K&K and Fox Produce, both Mennonite nurseries, and then to In The Country Garden to take a look at their wonderful hostas and other plants. We went back to Iowa on Monday, May 6, to different Mennonite nurseries. We started farther away from home with some nurseries that we had not visited in years and worked our way back closer to home. Thanks to Tom Nash's suggestion, Deanna's husband, Sue Martino thoughtfully mapped out a route that took us on as many blacktop roads as possible, which was great, as it was still very wet in Iowa and many of the "gravel" roads were more dirt (mud) roads than gravel. We adopted many wonderful, healthy plants for very good prices. I hope that others will consider joining our little group next year for a fun, plant-buying adventure.

Our upcoming events include a carpool trip to the Twin Cities and our Member Garden Tour. For the carpool trip, because we do not have enough attendees to warrant renting a bus, meet at Shopko South promptly at 7 a.m. on Saturday July 13, to caravan to the following destinations: three member gardens and a railroad garden, as well as the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in the Cities. Our trip concludes with a visit to Gardens at Rice Creek, a rare plant nursery. Specific details are outlined on the website flyer.

Our Member Garden Tour has been changed to the last week of July, exact date not yet determined. Dave Cocker, our Webmaster, will send an email to let everyone know soon.

Our final summer event will be an overnight car pool trip, which is always a great time. We plan to visit Olbrich Gardens in Madison, WI, and Al's Autobody and Arboretum in Walworth, WI, along with four nurseries including Land of the Giants, Flower Factory and Uniquely Hostas. We have rooms reserved in Janesville, WI. You can still join us on any of these upcoming trips. We would love to see you, to have fun and adopt some great plants. Thanks. Tour committee: Deanna Nash, Barb Threinen, Sue Martino, Dorothy Wichman, Jan Gerke and VaLinda Wondrasch

• Photos by Sue Martino •

Mayor Norton Proclaims June 2 - 9, 2019, Garden Club Week

Inspired by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Karen Noltee rallied the Rochester Garden Clubs together to lobby Mayor Kim Norton for the City of Rochester to Proclaim a National Garden Club Week.

Mayor Norton gladly welcomed the opportunity to recognize the importance of gardening and the numerous contributions to our community by the Rochester Garden and Flower Club, Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeastern MN, Eden Garden Club, and University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program of Olmsted County.

A copy of the proclamation that declares June 2-9, 2019, National Garden Club Week, will be available to read at the next SOGHS member meeting on October 10th. Pictured are Cindy Tomashek, left, SOGHS founder and Kathy Rustad, current president, with proclamation.

- **Kathy Rustad, President**



An Invitation to Join the American Hosta Society

Join the American Hosta Society and receive The Hosta Journal mailed twice a year and have access to a third issue online in the Members Only section of the AHS website. This publication offers the latest information on care, feeding, and hybridizing; pictures of new cultivars; and news of upcoming meetings and conventions.

For more information: click [here](#) See the [recent changes](#) to this site.

What is the AHS?

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a not-for-profit organization. The AHS is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage, and foster the development of the genus Hosta and public interest therein. These purposes are expressly limited so that the AHS qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future U.S Internal Revenue Law.

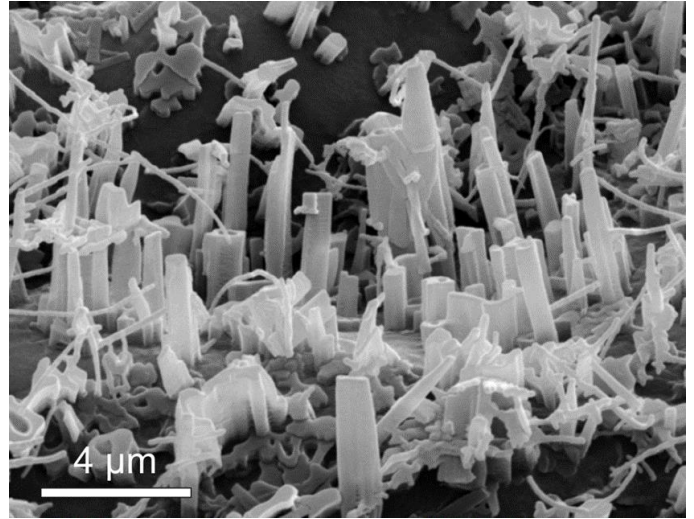
Mission Statement for SOGHS

The Shades of Green Hosta Society of Southeast MN, Inc. is a non-profit 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.

Reprinted from the Delaware Valley Hosta Society Newsletter

Blue Hostas And Epicuticle Wax



Left: H. 'Love Pat', the author's favorite. Right: Epicuticle Wax up CLOSE. This Scanning Electron Micrograph (SEM) of a cabbage leaf is the work of Kris Koch.

By Kathy Miller , DVHS newsletter editor

The last issue of the American Hosta Society e-Newsletter had a very fine discussion on blue hostas. As most of you already know, the leaves are actually dark green. A layer of epicuticle wax diffuses the light coming off the leaf and gives a blue effect. When are blue hostas at their "blue-est?" Not at the end of the summer; rain and wind wear away much of the wax and the green is peeking through. Not at the beginning of the summer; there is plenty of wax, but the underlying green has not darkened up, so the leaf has a powder blue look. I find that early June is the best time for a good deep blue.

In 2015, the American Society for Horticultural Science awarded a grant to Purdue University to study: "Seasonal Variation in Cuticular Waxes on Hosta Genotypes Differing in Leaf Surface Glauousness." For all you chemists out there I quote, "the major wax constituent class on these hosta was primary alcohols, comprising up to 84.6% of the total wax. Many hosta leaves had unusually high C24 length primary alcohols, especially in the spring. However, the dominant chain length in this alcohol class varied with development and genotype" --Whew!!!!

If you were at the AHS Convention in Green Bay, you heard Don Dean speak about hybridizing hostas. Stay tuned to future newsletters for more information on blue hostas.



Shades of Green Hosta Society
Of Southeastern Minnesota, Inc.
www.soghs.org
Membership Registration Form

The membership year for Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS) begins January 1 and ends December 31.

This form is the sole source of information for the **Member's Only Section** of SOGHS Website

PLEASE Complete each section of this form (even if you are a current member)

New Member

Renewal Membership

Single Membership

Dual Membership

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Residence () _____

Cell () _____ () _____

EMAIL: Address(es): _____

Membership Dues – check one, not prorated. Two types of membership available: "Single" or "Dual" (Couple or family)

Membership type	Dues (check one)	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr= \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> 2Yr= \$20	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr = \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr = \$30	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Name Badge*	<input type="checkbox"/> x \$6.00 each	\$
Total Payment: make check payable to SOGHS		\$

*Name on Name Badge: _____

Committees: Sign up for at least 1 committee. Please check any you would like to participate in.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Plant sale worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Hope Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosta Dig Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowflake Gala	<input type="checkbox"/> Hostatality
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian/Shutterfly Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> Education/Speakers
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> State Fair/Cty Fair/leaf show
<input type="checkbox"/> Tours	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising (HOTY,S&D, logo wear)
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Resource		

Each committee is described on the SOGHS website www.soghs.org

Membership profile:

<input type="checkbox"/> American Hosta Society (\$30/yr) www.americanhostasociety.org	<input type="checkbox"/> Midwest Regional Hosta Society (\$20/2 yr) www.midwesthostasociety.org
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Hosta Society (\$20/2 yr) www.mnhosta.org	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardeners http://www.ahsgardening.org

Submit form and payment to:

Shades of Green Hosta Society (SOGHS)
Joan Till – Born
4053 70th Ave NW
Byron, MN 55920

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	Date received: _____
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Get involved!

Get More Involved in Your Favorite Hosta Society!

Want to take a more active role in the workings of SOGHS? If so, we have an opportunity for you! Volunteer to fill a Board position! This year we need to fill the position of Secretary. And although our Plant Sale Directors, Paula Zollman and Jenifer Magera, will continue in this position for the next two years, we will be working to identify replacement candidates by this time next year to ensure sufficient time for training. Think about these possibilities and contact Jan Gerke (507-259-7096), Sue Martino (507-923-0986), or Karen Noltee (507-398-5283) by July 31st to find out more! **Jan Gerke**



New Members

SOGHS welcomes the following who recently joined our hosta society.

New Members:

Terry Amato, Emmetsburg, IA
 Betsy B. G. Norland, Cylinder, IA
 Geri Pumper, Rochester, MN
 Julie Larson Keller, Rochester MN
 Rosalind Rood, Rochester, MN
 Jim and Sheila Hartmann, Plymouth, MN

Hospitality Updates

Thanks to all the members who brought treats for our April member meeting. We had an abundance of food to choose from on the table during the break. Additionally, the membership really came through with a wide array of salads and snacks, both sweet and savory, for the 2019 Plant Sale. Besides offering a knockout display of hostas, members also knocked us out with their culinary skills. Then in May at the Open House, hosted by the Tomasheks, the SOGHS board treated nearly 80 members to a wonderful potluck! Founders' Day, coming up on Saturday, September 14th, (note date change) at the Tomashek Farm in Preston, members are encouraged to bring something to share. You can be sure no one goes home hungry! For the final member meeting on Thursday, October 10th (note date change) we will need members to sign up for a Veggie Tray & Dip, a Fruit selection, and a Dessert (50 servings). Please contact Linda ASAP if you are willing to bring a food item for 10/10/19. Additional members are encouraged to add to the food selections that night. Please contact Linda Brech with your availability to share a treat from your kitchen for the October 10th meeting. mnbrech@charter.net or 507-358-3839.



- Linda Brech, Hostality

Membership Notes

Introduce a Friend or TWO to Hostas

As of June 2019, there are 145 members of SOGHS. This number is down some from past years when I remember we reached 200 members at one of the annual plant sales.

People are busy these days, traveling, wintering in warmer climates, spending time at cabins in the summer and may feel they don't have the time to commit to one more group or activity. As many of you know, you can participate in this group as much or as little as you want, but the more activities you participate in, the more fun you can have.

I challenge you to bring a friend to the next general meeting on October 10th. Encourage them to join by sharing the great events we have during the year: member garden tours, bus tours, HOTY and Scratch & Dent sales and the informational topics at our meetings. The \$10 membership is well worth it for the friendship and expertise you gain.

See previous page for membership form and share with some friends.

- Joan Tilborn, Membership



**Photos Courtesy of Joe Parisi
and Jan Gerke**

2019 SOGHS Spring Open House

at the Tomasheks

Gearing up for the Summer

Cindy and Mike Tomashek opened their beautiful home and gardens to all SOGHS members on this brisk May evening. Not only are they amazing hosts but there was also a special bonus this year with Winston, the Corgi puppy, greeting people as they arrived. Was that cute or what?

Members were able to join in conversations, stroll through the gardens, enjoy a wonderful dinner, bid on silent auction items, win door prizes and listen to the educational presentation. By doing these things members were actually enjoying one of the hidden and magical strengths of SOGHS as an organization. What is this you might ask? Answer: A bevy of behind-the-scenes busy bees who get things done!

June Stoehr and Joan Tilborn organized the feast, Cindy and Mike set up the garage with comfortable seating and greeted everyone, making their guests feel welcome. Jane Yunginger, the knowledgeable featured speaker, conveyed a wealth of wisdom about garden invasives that we all face whether they be organisms, plants or animals. We really appreciate her expertise, enthusiasm and willingness to share.

Denice and David Cocker contributed with a charming lilac-themed greeting table (complete with the matching outfit worn by Denice) and many extra-needed tables that seem to always be found in Dave's vehicle. VaLinda Wondrasch and Jenifer Magera brought sign-up sheets for upcoming events and opportunities. Many members donated plants and garden-related items for the silent auction. Barb Threinen and Jan Suter helped with the Silent Auction, which raised \$431. Joe Parisi and Jan Gerke helped by being secret photographers for this newsletter! I know there are other members who contributed to the successful event, and SOGHS is so grateful for everyone's contributions.

Remember! We are so lucky!

To be able to gather in mind-boggling beautiful gardens
To share our gardening excitement and woes with like-minded souls.

Photos Courtesy of Joe Parisi and Jan Gerke

• Article by Sue Weeks Martino

Calendar of Events

July 13 - Annual SOGHS Bus Tour (3 member gardens and at least 2 other gardens and nursery stops) This event will be A Car pool Tour

July 20 - RG&FC Garden Tour

July 24 - Master Garden Tour (4:00-8:30pm)

July 25 - Executive Board Meeting

July 22-28 - Olmsted County Fair (Don't forget to register for the leaf show on July ??rd!)

August 2-3 - Overnight Carpool trip

August 13 - Master Gardener Meeting

August 15 - RG&FC Meeting

August/September - Scratch & Dent Sales Event

September 1 - Article deadline for October/November/December Newsletter

September 10 - Master Gardener Meeting

September 14 - Founder's Day Picnic

September 19 - RF&GC Meeting

September 26 - Executive Board Meeting

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