

Prairie Hosta Herald

March 2010 Volume 7 Number 1

Illinois Prairie Hosta Society

Promoting knowledge and interest in Hostas, fostering the development of new and improved Hosta varieties and encouraging cultivation and usefulness of Hostas in landscapes.

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 AM

Parkland Community College, Tony Noel Center

Program - Garden Lighting

The Tony Noel Center is located in the northwest corner of the Parkland campus. Go west on Bradley Avenue, turn north on Duncan Road (the street on the east side of Prairie Gardens) and go north 1/4 mile to the entrance to Parkland. Turn right and the facility is on the right side. Park in the parking lot on the east side of the building and enter through the main doors. Our room will be to the right.

Our speaker at this first meeting of the year will be Mark Pomatto, a Sullivan area landscaping lighting designer and contractor, will give a powerpoint presentation on outdoor display lighting and how to accent your garden at night. We all see our garden in the daytime but what better way to enjoy it than sitting out on your back deck or patio at night, with your favorite beverage, and seeing your garden light up. Come and be illuminated!

This is the first meeting of the new year and if you have not paid your 2010 dues yet bring your check to the meeting to give to Susan Krumm. If you are a new member the "gift plant" won't be ready at this meeting as Susan did winter them over and come May they should be ready to hand out.

Officers for 2010

President - Susan Weber

1st Vice President - Programs - Richard Isaacs

2nd Vice President - Membership - Susan Krumm

Secretary - Vickie Morris

Treasurer - Jamie Isaacs

Past President - Barb Schroeder

Board Member at Large - Fran Smith

*Membership - Single \$10, Family \$15 and
Commercial at \$25 per calendar year.*

For more information contact

Vice President - Membership:

Susan Krumm, 508 James St, Champaign, IL 61821

krumms@comcast.net

Web Site - <http://www.illinoisprairiehostasociety.com>

Committee Chairs

Allerton Hosta Garden - M. Metz and Karen Meyer

Audit - Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality -

Newsletter- Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic - Susan Weber

Plant Sale - Mike Weber

Publicity - Diann Thoma

Leaf Show - Mary Ann Metz

Trips - Rick Schroeder

Raffle - Lisa Weber

Please volunteer and help these chairpersons.

Future Meetings

It has been a long winter and even the plant tags have been buried for a month. All of us are ready for spring and our new VP Programs, Dick Isaacs, has most of his plans for the year formalized. The following are the planned 2010 dates and programs so put them on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting this month.

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 AM - Parkland Community College, Tony Noel Center, north-west corner of the campus, Mark Pomatto will be our speaker and present a program on garden lighting.

Saturday, April ? - the date and location has not been set yet.

Saturday, May 8, 8 AM to 1 PM -Lincoln Square Village in Urbana, annual IPHS, C-U Herb Society, Prairie Plant Society and C-U Business Women's plant sale.

Friday & Saturday, May 21 & 22 - Illini-Buckeye Plant Sale at the Metz garden, 10-6 on Friday, 8-2 PM on Saturday **put on by the Illini & the Buckeye "Danaher Nursery" of Columbus, Ohio** with their collection of conifers and woodies for sale.

Saturday, May 22, 4:00 PM - (Location to be announced) IPHS Potluck with speaker Dave Danaher. Dave will speak on conifers, woodies and grafting.

Saturday, June 12, 7 AM to 7 PM - Annual bus trip to Rockford to visit the Anderson Japanese Garden and the Klehm Arboretum. On the way back we will stop at Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton, Illinois. Information with pricing will be sent with the April issue.

Saturday, June 19, 9 AM - Leon Rocker's garden in Gifford, IL. Garden walk and program by Leon.

June 23-26 - AHS Convention in Minneapolis, MN area

July 8-10 - Midwest Regional Hosta Society convention in DeMoines, IA.

New Members

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Liza Weber, For Your Fleurs, 1006 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign, IL

Holly & Jim O'Donnel, 1542 Acorn Lane, St. Anne, IL

For new members, when you attend your first meeting check with Susan Krumm and pick up your "friendship" hosta.

Membership Renewal Time

Please send your 2010 dues in as soon as possible. The yearbook is going to the printer the first of April and we all would like you to be listed in it!

The dues are still \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families and \$25 for commercial members.

For those of you that still owe dues for 2010 there is a renewal form attached for your convenience to this issue. Please send your dues to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

Thank you,

Susan Krumm, Membership Chairman

Meetings continued

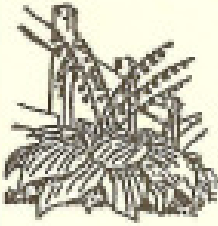
Saturday, July 24, 9 AM - Doug & Marsha Jurgens garden in Arthur. Speaker is Mac Condill with a program on Gourds and more.

Saturday, August 21 - 9 AM - Susan Krumm garden, Gardening in small places.

Saturday, September 18, 9 AM - Stan and Penny Cukay garden. The Cukays will speak on conifers.

October - Date and location to be announced for the Annual Banquet.

LEE GARDENS

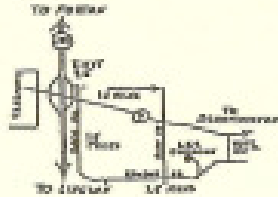


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April 10 to October 10
8 am to 5 pm, Monday - Saturday

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IPHS Bus Trip

Last fall I noted I was planning a 2-day trip to Michigan. Schedule, dates and gardens did not work out so this year we are doing a 1-day trip to the Anderson Japanese Garden and Klehm Arboretum in Rockford. On the way back we will be stopping at Hornbakers near Princeton. This will be the same day as their "Hosta Walk" which offers a lot of bargains and a chance to pick up some of the newest hostas. In addition, Hornbakers has a wide variety of perennials for your garden. More details will follow next month.

Rick Schroeder



Liza Weber

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Hosta and Garden Web Sites

Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org/>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers - <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Wade & Gatton Nursery – a must visit - <http://www.pal-metto.com/hosta/wade/wade.html>

Country Arbors Nursery - membership gets you a 10% discount on Hostas - <http://countryarbors.com>

Green Hill Farms, Bob Solberg - www.HostaHosta.com

Future Conventions

The 2010 AHS Convention will be in Bloomington, MN from June 23 - 26, 2010

The 2010 Midwest Hosta Society Convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa from July 8 to July 10.

The 2011 AHS Convention sponsored by the New England Hosta Society, June 22-25, 2011

The 2012 AHS Convention sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, June 13-16, 2012

Gardeners, Collectors, Splitters, Clumpers

By Ray Rodgers

The exercise described here is meant strictly for fun. Regardless of how you rate yourself, your membership in your local hosta society will not be revoked, you may still be asked to serve on the Board, and your smiling face at each of the monthly meetings will continue to be appreciated.

The first phase of this self-assessment is to determine whether your gardening traits make you more of a gardener or a collector.

The purest of “**Gardeners**” have a predetermined place for every purchase and every plant must be in its place. Planting three or more of a particular variety often makes good design sense. Such gardeners have a seemingly never-ending thirst, or possibly an addiction, to work in their gardens. Gardeners typically are not concerned with exactly how many hostas they have, and are not terribly concerned about labeling or keeping track of plant purchases in any way. Their primary concern is to possess diverse plantings, providing ever-changing seasonal appeal.

Gardeners that join hosta societies often gradually move at least slightly towards becoming collectors, while still retaining the seasonal beauty of their gardens.

“**Collectors**” do not make purchases based on need. In the mind of the most avid collectors, there is always room for more hostas, even when available

space dictates otherwise. In their minds, there are friends, neighbors and relatives’ yards to relegate the less desirable hostas, creating space for more exciting varieties. More so than gardeners, collectors have a hard time resisting the lure of newer introductions. At least on occasion, collectors are more willing to exceed their price comfort zone for “must have” hostas. When doing so, they may choose not to share the purchase price with their spouse. A collector would rather purchase three different varieties than three of one variety.

Collectors may do what is required to display their hostas well, but when given a choice, will often opt for another buying trip or the opportunity to visit someone else’s garden, rather than work in their own.

Such collectors most often keep track of all hosta purchases, usually in some sort of hard-copy or electronic spreadsheet. At any time, collectors typically know at least approximately how many hostas they have, especially during the early years of their addiction. To the most avid hosta collector, a good companion plant would be another hosta.

Those that start out as true collectors, find it difficult to spend very much of their available funds on other types of plant material. In my opinion, gardeners that become collectors are more apt to have beautiful gardens than those of us that start out as collectors.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 exhibiting only traits of the purest gardener and 10 being the most avid

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Remarks from Susan

As I am writing this, we are having our first 32 degree weather in what seems like weeks. There is still a lot of snow on the ground, and the hostas are sleeping peacefully in dormancy. I feel like I've sort of gone dormant, too. I sleep late and go to bed early and wonder where the sun is. The good news is that I am certain that all this will pass and we will once again feel the warm sunlight on our faces and the spring hosta "cigars" coming out of the ground.

We have a few changes in this year's meetings I want to tell you about. We are reinstating the raffle, and we would love to have members donate one or two items should you be so inclined. We would like plants, of course, and perhaps garden crafts if any of you are into such things ;-). Check with Liza Weber (lizabweber@gmail.com) if you want to bring something so that she can try to get us 5 or 6 items for each meeting. We have decided to do away with the door prize as it seemed better for us to not have to decide what would be a raffle and what would be a door prize. Other than that, we will stick with the energizing and fun agendas that we always have!

We will have a spring cleaning for the Allerton Garden which is due to be reviewed this year for National Display Garden recognition. Deb Guardia is providing leadership for that designation. We'll decide on a date for the cleaning later after we see what kind of spring we have. Speaking of which, I hope the spring is kind to all our plants and that the renewal of energy that always comes after the vernal equinox is quick to arrive.

So rest up (or hibernate) – there will be plenty to do soon enough. - Susan Weber

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collector), where are you? For the sake of this exercise, let's say the person exhibits some traits of both the gardener and the collector, but lean a bit more towards the right. Let's rank this person as a 7.

Through the eyes of this long-time hosta lover and admirer of great gardens, a 6 or 7 is optimal.

Regardless of how you have rated yourself to this point, there are two other traits for consideration. Gardeners as well as collectors can be splitters, clumpers, or somewhere in between.

When "**Splitters**" purchase double or multi-eyed hostas, their mind eventually gets around to dividing. Sometimes it is right away, sometimes the action happens the following year. For these folks, more is better than big! Splitters are quick with the knife when it comes to sharing, trading, selling, or feel the need for a hosta to have a presence in another location. Newer hosta fanciers often consider dividing as a way to quickly increase their total number of hostas. Some splitters don't know, or choose to ignore the fact, that

unlike iris and daylilies, hostas do not need to be divided.

In contrast, "**Clumpers**" are basically the exact opposite. They take great joy in nurturing their hostas into large mature clumps. For these folks, bigger is truly better than more! When clumpers feel a particular hosta is not sited for optimal growth, they would rather move the entire clump than chop it up. Clumpers don't make great trading partners.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 always having a reason to divide hostas, and 10 almost never wanting to divide a hosta), where are you? For this part of the assessment, let's consider the person as an 8.

In my opinion, single clumps grown to perfection are far more impressive than multiple smaller plantings of the same variety. Yet, dividing is certainly recommended for hostas that are sporting, reverting, or to a lesser extent experiencing center

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clump dieback. Thusly, I would consider something in the 7 to 9 range as being ideal.

So, based on the example, the fictitious person is rated as a 7 on the Gardener / Collector scale and an 8 on the Splitter / Clumper scale. Combined, this person would be a 7/8.

What are your numbers?

Keep in mind that no matter where you rate yourself today, your numbers may change as your gardening experiences continue to evolve.

Membership

American Hosta Society

Contact Sandie Markland at PO Box 7539 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948-7539. Individual membership is \$30 per year, \$34 for family which gives you 3 issues of *The Hosta Journal* per year (an outstanding volunteer publication) - join now - <http://www.hosta.org/> Check out the updated website, the changes are fantastic.

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL 61822-5239. Individual membership is \$20 for 2 years - join now - <http://www.MidwestHostaSociety.org>

We urge you to join both societies.

Master Gardeners - a part of IPHS

Check around at one of the meetings or any event the IPHS is having and you will find many of our members are Master Gardeners, part of the University of Illinois Master Gardener program. Last year one of our members was honored with the Sustained Excellence Master Gardener Award. Maxi Fitzjarrald received the state award in 2009 for her community involvement in the Moultrie and Douglas counties area of the local Extension Unit. We are proud of all of our Master Gardener IPHS members

Giant Hosta's - by Mark Zilis

At this years Winter Scientific Meeting sponsored by the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, Mark Zilis presented his list of the largest giant hostas. This list is based on measurements that Mark has made over his years of inspecting and measuring hostas in gardens that he has visited. The measurements include clump width, leave size and height of the clump. Out of a total of 226 that qualified he eliminated some 155 as he had not personally measured them. He determined that a giant would be taller than 36 inches and have more than 120 square inches on the leaf. The following is his list of the top 25:

- 25 - H. 'Winter Snow' (a 'Sum and Substance' sport)
- 24 - H. 'Birchwood Elegance'
- 23 - H. montana
- 22 - H. 'Emperss Wu'
- 21 - H. "Roderick"
- 20 - H. 'Behemoth'
- 19 - H. 'Friar Tuck' (a 'Sum and Substance' sport)
- 18 - H. 'Lady Isobel Barnett'(a 'Sum and Substance' sport)
- 17 - H. 'Borsch'
- 16 - H. 'Key West'
- 15 - H. 'Mikado'
- 14 - H. 'Steve Moldovan'
- 13 - H. 'Canadian Foreign Affairs'
- 12 - H. 'Green Dragonet'
- 11 - H. 'Mountain Man'
- 10 - H. 'Corduoy'
- 9 - H. 'Lakeside Ripples'
- 8 - H. 'Russ O'Harra'
- 7 - H. 'Victory'
- 6 - H. 'Solar Flare'
- 5 - H. 'Millennium'
- 4 - H. 'T Rex'
- 3 - H. 'Sum It Up' (a 'Sum and Substance' sport)
- 2 - H. 'Elatior'
- 1 - H. 'Sum and Substance'

How many of these do you have in your yard? If you have several and they have not reached the "giant size" yet you had better be moving adjacent plants to give them room. For those of us that have small yards we usually look for the medium hosta as our "giant" but need a couple of these just to really enjoy their large size when fully grown. *Rick*

When is the best time to fertilize hostas?

John Cash (of Bishop's Farm): "The best time to fertilize Hostas is in the late winter or the very early spring. This is before they start to break ground. You should use a balanced slow release fertilizer such as 13-13-13. You can also fertilize them during the growing season using a weak liquid mixture of a 20-20-20 fertilizer, with the emphasize on weak."

What fertilizer should I use for my hostas?

Kevin P. Walek (of Mid-Atlantic Regional Hosta Society): "There is much debate over the "best" fertilizer. Many persons find that granular or solid forms are better; then there are those that prefer foliar feeding. After the issue of method of application is resolved, there is the question of best nitrogen - potassium - phosphorus ratios. The norm seems to be an application of around 10-10-10, three to four times per year.

For those people who tend toward organic gardening, there are several products that have worked for hosta gardeners. Some gardeners use Milorganite or other treated sewage residue. Although there is an initial odor, it quickly dissipates. Another alternative is animal manure, but, after considering the price of hauling, it is not cheap and the potential for "burning" the plants with "fresh" manure is greater. To some, a more pleasant smelling organic fertilizer, at 8% nitrogen, is soybean meal. Rich in other elements, as well as having a protein level of 46%, you practically could spread it on your corn flakes. A problem in most metropolitan areas is that the nursery staff will tell you that "if you want soybean meal go to a soybean mill. (It is definitely worth a try, though!) We do carry cottonseed meal, but at 6-1-1 it is for adding acid to the soil, not fertilizing."

If you are interested in how these various fertilizers compare; with regard to composition in the other fertilizers, Milorganite is 6-2-0, and Miracle Grow lawn food is 36-6-6 (generally speaking about 6 times more concentrated than cottonseed meal), Miracid plant food is 30-10-10, and, for you Peter's fans, you can get many combinations, but the most common used for hosta is either 20-20-20 or 10-10-10. The big

difference appears to be in other components: Milorganite has 4% iron, both Miracle Grow products have .325% chelated iron, and cottonseed meal has 0%. Only Soybean meal appears to have any significant protein content! At one time Milorganite was not recommended for use on property with well water, but that prohibition no longer pertains as they have developed a means to remove the heavy metals."



The above photo shows a container in one of the Michigan gardens during last years AHS convention. If you have a dead tree in a wooded area this is a neat idea, cut the tree off horizontal and put a planter on top. This one is fairly thin but a larger one would work great. This is one of many gardening and presentation ideas you can get from attending AHS and Midwest conventions. Remember, spring is coming sometime so plan now.