

Prairie Hosta Herald

October 2006 Volume 3 Number 9

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, October 28, 2006 - Annual Dinner

Speaker - Bob Solberg of Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Tricks and Traps of Hosta Collecting

October 28, 2006 - Annual Meeting at Kennedy's at Stone Creek (the Palmer/Hogan room off the main dining room) in Urbana. The evening begins at 6:00 PM with the social/cocktail hour followed by an outstanding buffet dinner at 7:00 PM. At 7:45 PM we will have a short business meeting in which we will elect officers for 2007/08 (see list in this issue). At 8:00 PM our speaker, Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm, Chapel Hill, North Carolina will present his program.

We are excited to have Bob and his wife Nancy at our second annual dinner. Bob will be speaking on "Tricks and Traps of Hosta Collecting". The talk will cover strategies for non-random collecting, educational sources as well as what hostas to buy and what ones to pass on. New hostas are being evaluated and Bob will discuss this process. If weather has not affected some of his plants, Bob will be bringing some for sale. Remember, you can "plant" the pot in the ground and then dig it up and plant the hosta next year.

To learn more about Green Hill Farm check out Bob's web site at www.HostaHosta.com. In 2005 Bob published his 10th year of The Green Hill Gossip, a great publication that you can get for subscription price along with "Gossip Jr" for \$7 a year. The Green Hill Gossip features numerous articles and catalogue of hostas that are available. Bob also supports local societies by selling societies a "club hosta" that is not available on the market for at least a year..

Officers for 2006

President - Barb Schroeder

1st Vice President - Programs - Deb Guardia

2nd Vice President - Membership - Rick Schroeder

Secretary - Ann Stout

Treasurer - Mary Slack

Board Member at Large - Micha Ronquest

Board Member at Large - Sue Welke

Membership - Single \$10, Family \$15 and

Commercial at \$25 per calendar year.

For more information contact

Vice President - Membership:

***Rick Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr, Champaign, IL
61822***

Web Site - <http://www.prairienet.org/iphs/>

Committee Chairs

Audit - Fritz Drasgow

Hospitality - Siska Kallio

Newsletter- Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic - Marcia Jurgens

Plant Raffles - Larry Hoffman

Plant Sale - Deb Guardia

Publicity - Bev Cotter

Special Projects - Mary Ann Metz

Please volunteer and help these chairpersons. Also, please contact Deb if you wish to hold a meeting at your garden next year, its fun and easy.

Future Meetings

October 21, 2006 - Allerton Park - Fall Cleanup Session. We will meet at our Hosta Garden in Allerton Park at 10:00 AM to do cleanup of the area and prepare the beds for winter. In addition we have a few hostas to plant and maybe replace some of the duplicates. The project should take around an hour to complete and we invite you to come, dig in the dirt and enjoy the fellowship of society members. In addition this will be a good time to walk Allerton Park and view the fall season of color. If you want to spend some time at the park bring a sack lunch and walk the many trails around the area. We understand Allerton has received many great compliments about the hosta garden and we will be planning a spring cleanup and planting session.

We want to thank all of you for your support this year. We also want to thank Deb Guardia for the great programs she had for each meeting. As soon as she recovers from the 2006 year, and the broken wrist, Deb will be working on the meeting schedule for next year. This issue of the newsletter that you are receiving will be the last one this year and the meeting schedule for 2007 will be listed in the newsletter that will be sent out in early February.

We are planning to have the March meeting at Parkland College and Deb has speakers already lined up for that meeting. At the September meeting we ask for a show of hands for those that wanted to go on a two-day bus trip to Wade and Gatton Nursery in Ohio and over 35 members raised their hands, thus that will be on the schedule for either June or July, depending on schedules.



New Members

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Jean Paley, 706 W. California, Urbana

Mary Morris, 902 W. Kirby, Champaign

Connie Carstens, 1433 Dillon Dr, Normal

Beverly Cottrell, 1305 Parkview Dr,
Champaign

As Membership VP I am please to report that as of the September meeting, with those noted above joining, we have 118 members. We started with 18 charter members in the summer of 2004 and to gain 100 members in two years is amazing to all of us. What great support we have from all of you and we appreciate your membership in your society.

Rick

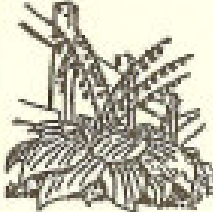
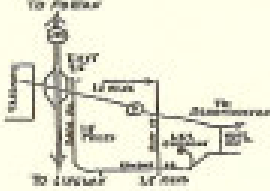
2009 Midwest Hosta Society Convention Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Barb Schroeder and Deb Guardia have been meeting to discuss the plans for the 2009 MWHS convention that will be held in Champaign-Urbana. A preliminary guide line has been prepared and after the October annual meeting, a November committee meeting will be held to further discuss the plans for the convention. Barb and Deb plan to keep all of the society members informed of the progress and will probably issue semiannual or quarterly reports to the members listing progress. In late 2008 and early 2009 we will be contacting members to volunteer their services during the convention. Remember, if you are interested in volunteering after the first reports come out contact Barb or Deb and let them know what tasks might be of interest to you. This winter we will probably ask for volunteer gardens for the convention so next year they can be judged and picked for the convention. Our plan is to have an outside group from another society or region pick the gardens.

We encourage you to plan on attending the MWHS conventions in Davenport in 2007 and in the Chicago area in 2008. Also, remember that the AHS convention is in Indianapolis in 2007 - almost in our backyard. The conventions are a lot of fun and you get to see some great gardens plus really see how the convention process works. Note the dates listed and put them on your 2007 calendar.

LEE GARDENS

Hours:
Mon. - Sat.
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hostas • Daylilies
Wildflowers • Perennials
3988 Bessler Rd.
P.O. Box 9
Tremont, IL 61588
(309) 825-5262
Fax: (309) 825-5018

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
www.lee-gardens.com

DIRECTIONS TO TREMONT NURSERY
From the junction of Highway routes 6 & 155, go east 1.8 miles on 155 - turn right, go south 1 mile - turn left, go east .3 miles - turn left on lane, gardeners and nursery at end of lane.


5 Acre Farm Daylilies
Rod Kroemer and Jim Wuersch
1578 County Rd 300 North
Tolono, Illinois 217-621-8474



AVALON ACRES
Hostas and More

Denny Ricketts
Web Site: ashostas.com

11125 E. 1129th Ave
Effingham, IL 62401 (317) 536-9443
ashostas@effingham.net



HORNBAKER
GARDENS

Celebrating 20 years in 2006
HOSTAS - IRISES - DAYLILIES - GRASSES
PERENNIALS - TREES & SHUBS

April 10 to October 10
8 am to 5 pm, Monday - Saturday
www.hornbakergardens.com
Princeton, IL (815) 659-3282

Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

This years meeting will be held Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL. Reservations are to be made at the hotel by calling 800-223-1234 and mentioning the hosta-meeting rate of \$84 per room.

The speakers at this years meeting are:

**Glenn Herold – It's As Easy as ABCD:
Artistic, Bold, Creative Design**

**Dave Wanninger – New, Better, Ornamental
Trees and Shrubs for Residential Gardens**

**Ran Lydell – Rare and Little-Used Shade
Perennials**

**Jim Schwartz – Hosta Gardens and
Nurseries of Holland**

**Bill Roston – A Different Way to Create
More Hostas**

Mark Zilis – Hostas of Distinction.

The cost is \$45 per person, which includes breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Registration will begin on Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and on Saturday from 7:00 to 8:00 AM. The program runs from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. A Hospitality Suite will be open Friday and Saturday from 7:30 PM to 11 PM for Hosta Fellowship. Dinner on Friday and Saturday are on your own.

A reservation form for the meeting will be available at the Annual Dinner on the 28th and if you are interested, but not attending the dinner, contact Rick or Barb and we will send you a reservation form via E-mail, or snail mail. We, and others in the society, have attended these meetings and there is great fun plus you learn a lot about gardening and new plants coming into the market. There is no better way to spend a cold January weekend than talking about gardening.

We encourage you to go to the meeting plus become a member of the Midwest Region Hosta Society.

Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – join now - <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – join now - <http://www.MidwestHostaSociety.org>

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 & Events

American Hosta Society, 2007 Convention will be in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 20-23, put it on your calendar now.

Midwest Region Hosta Society will be in Davenport, Iowa, July 12-14, 2007.

Winter Scientific Meeting in Rolling Meadows will be in January 20, 2007

The Hosta College in Piqua, Ohio will be March, 17, 2007.

Midwest Region Hosta Society meeting - Champaign/Urbana, Summer 2009

Nominations for 2007 offices

President: Barb Schroeder (last term)

Vice-President Membership: Rick Schroeder (last term)

Treasurer: Mary Slack (last term)

Member-at-Large: Ruth Walker

Other nominations and election at annual meeting.

Hosta Seed Saving and Storage.

By Mary Bardens, from the Hosta and Friends Garden Club

Now is the time to collect hosta seeds (may be to late by the time you read this but remember for next year). Many of those pods hanging in our garden have the potential to produce some wonderful new hostas. Pollination may have occurred by your hand after careful research of parentage and hopeful outcome or your may have just let nature take its course and let the bees do the work. Either way, those seeds are ready for harvesting. Once you start saving seed you will develop your won technique, but here is a good way to start.

First look at the pod parent-that is the plant from which the seedpod is hanging. We want to propagate strong plants with good characteristics. If the pod parent is a slug magnet or does not exhibit vigor, move on to another plant.

When the seed is fully ripe, the pod changes from green (or cream colored on some plants) to a tan or brown and opens to reveal dark brown seeds. Take a pad of paper out with you to the garden and write down the pod parent's name and a box of snack size sealing plastic bags in which to place the seed. Place the parent's name in the bag with the seed for identification later. Collect more seed that you think you will need because germination rate is not 100%. Once you are done collecting head inside. Deal with

Membership

American Hosta Society

Contact Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079-3029. Individual membership is \$25 per year, \$29 for family.

Midwest Hosta Society

Contact Pete Postlewaite, 21172 Andover Rd, Kildeer, IL 60047. Individual membership is \$20 for 2 years.

We urge you to join both societies and we have copies of the AHS Hosta Journal for \$5 each which includes the membership application. This is an outstanding, volunteer, hosta publication.

each bag separately. Spread the seed out on white paper plate to separate the seeds from the chafe that is the papery outer covering of the seed. The seeds will look like a little wing with a tiny bump. Remove any seed that has not turned dark brown.

Freezing is the best method for hosta seed storage. Do this as soon as possible after collection. This preserves the heart of the seed that will sprout later. Letting the seed dry out by exposing to the normal conditions in our homes can diminish germination. Get an airtight container for storage. Plastic 35mm film canisters are the container of choice as they are airtight. These have become harder to find in the digital age so look for a similar airtight container. You can use the double walled freezer storage bags, not the zipper kind, that you press together to seal.

Tuck your seeds away in the freezer and take a break. The next article will cover how to start hosta plants from seeds in late winter.

Editor:

Last year at the Winter Scientific Meeting in Rolling Meadows groups of seeds were auctioned off to attendees. Several of us bid and won some of the seed packages offered. After splitting some of our seeds with Mary Ann Metz and Diann Thoma we put them in the freezer for a month. Around the first of March we took our seed starting pack and setup the area in a room with west light exposure. In addition, I set up some plant lights to come on once the seedlings started growing (if they did). In about three to four weeks we started getting sprouts in most of the seed tray. In about 2-3 months they were around 2 inches tall.

It is critical to watch the seedlings with a cover on the tray as mold can grow, thus killing off the seedling. By June we transplanted some of the seedlings to bigger containers and started taking them outdoors, being sure to place them in a shaded location. You must be sure to keep them moist, but not too moist, and we added some fertilizer to the water for each watering. Again, be careful and do not over fertilize. By August the seedlings were 3-4 inches tall and they were moved to our "nursery" under the Japanese maple tree. Here they will be kept in the container and planted in the dirt for winter. A light covering of leaf mulch will be placed over them for winter.

Some of the packets we got were cross breeding from various hosta breeders and one was a collection of some 500 seeds of "streaked hostas". It has been interesting to see what has developed to date. Some are streaked, some have narrow leaves and some appear to be very hardy plants. Of the 200 or so seeds planted we have a survival rate of about 30 plants. Who knows, maybe we will get a "new and exciting hosta", or maybe just some neat seedlings to plant among the known hostas in the garden.

President's Message

I can't believe another year has passed. We are starting to get ready for winter with pots being buried and bigger hosta taken out of the pots and planted for the winter. Our nursery is almost ready to cover with leaves and straw for their winter sleep. It is way too early for me. I like the fall weather and wouldn't it be nice if it lasted until December 1. Then maybe February 1 it could start to warm up. But if we had that kind of weather the hosta wouldn't like it. They want four months of cold. Oh well.

I want to thank everyone for such a good year. It takes all the officers, chairpersons and volunteers to make this society function like it does. I want to especially thank Deb Guardia for the wonderful programs this year, and Mary Slack for being the best Treasurer. There is a lot of work being treasurer and Mary has done an excellent job. I also want to thank Rick (my husband) for all his work and putting up with me during some challenging days. Then there is Ann, Marcia, Siska, Bev, Larry, Sue, Micha, Fritz, and Mary Ann. I could not have done it without ALL of you. Thank you.

Now, don't forget we only have two functions left until March. October 21st is the cleanup at the Allerton Park Hosta Glade and October 28 is the Annual Dinner with Bob Solberg as speaker. Bob and Nancy are such nice people you will enjoy meeting them.

I recently heard "Mike in the Morning" say that every day it is 60 degrees we are one day closer to Spring - you know he is right! I am already looking forward to 2007.

Barb Schroeder, President

Allerton Hosta Garden

This fall we have a work session scheduled at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 21, to cleanup and prepare the Allerton Hosta Garden for winter. In addition Mike Weber would like to replace some of the duplicate hostas that were planted last spring along with adding more hostas at different locations.

Hosta that we don't have in the display garden, and recommended for placement by Mike, are:

Paradigm, Tokudama Flavocircinalis, Sagae, Brave Amherst, Piedmont Gold, Torchlight, Allegan Fog, Kiwi Full Monty, Northern Exposure, El Capitan, Yingeri and/or Korean Snow, Tradiflora, Raspberry Sorbet, Whirlwind and Love Pat.

If you have a hosta that you want to plant be sure you have the name on a tag in the pot. Allerton Park will be placing new tags on each plant so be sure the tag you have will last through the winter period for spring marking.

AHS Mini Hosta Popularity Poll - 2005

The following are the top 10 mini hostas of 2005. How many do you have in your garden? Put some of these great little hostas on your list for next spring.

- 1. H. 'Pandora's Box'**
- 2. H. 'Baby Bunting'**
- 3. H. 'Lemon Lime'**
- 4. H. Tiny Tears'**
- 5. H. 'Popo'**
- 6. H. venusta**
- 7. H. 'Green Eyes'**
- 8. H. 'Feather Boa'**
- 9. H. 'Cookie Crumbs'**
- 10. Tie - H. 'Vanilla Cream' & H. 'Twist of Lime'**

Pre-Emergent Herbicides

By Bill Meyer

Some time ago a product for gardeners called Preen entered the marketplace. It was called a "pre-emergent herbicide" and was touted as stopping weeds in the garden before they came up. Its promise of an end to the tiresome chore of weeding was offset somewhat by its high price, and no one seemed to know much about it. The use of pre-emergent herbicides in the home garden actually goes back further than Preen, as "crabgrass preventer" fertilizers did their preventing by using pre-emergent herbicides to stop crabgrass from germinating.

A pre-emergent herbicide is a chemical that bums the roots of all plants in the zone in which it is

applied. At normal application strengths, it will bum the tips of emerging roots of weed and other seeds, thus preventing them from growing. It sits in the upper 1/2 inch or so of soil and breaks down slowly over the course of a season. For practical purposes we will have a look at only two pre-emergent herbicides here in this article. The most commonly used chemicals are Surflan (trade name) or Oryzalin (generic name) and Treflan (trade name) or Trifluralin (generic name). Surflan is sold in liquid form for use in sprayers, and Treflan is a granular form. Treflan is the active ingredient in Preen.

Before going any further, I know that some are already getting nervous about the word "chemical". Many are afraid to use "chemicals" in the garden for fear that they will be toxic to themselves, their children, or their pets. In numerous independent toxicity studies, both of these chemicals have proven remarkably safe to humans and animals. In these studies, highly concentrated forms were tested on animals in such ways as dripping it into eyes, ingesting large amounts, and prolonged contact with skin that had been abraded. The worst thing reported in those studies was mild irritation that lasted a few hours. For comparison, consider what ordinary table salt would do in similar tests. These are both very safe products to use in the garden, and should not be a cause for worry. Even the most stringent environmental organizations have found no safety issues with either of them.

The most important thing to know about using either of these products is that timing is everything. They will only affect the tiny weak first roots of seedlings, and only in the shallow layer in which they are present in the soil. This means they must be

applied before weed seeds begin to germinate in the spring, so that they are in place when the soil warms enough to cause germination. For the Delaware Valley area, this would mean before the end of March. Common lore says that they must be applied before the Forsythia bloom. If you wait too long to apply them, they will be ineffective because the weed seeds have already gotten their roots further down into the soil where the herbicides have not penetrated. It is also important to understand that they must be watered in. This is necessary to aid them in penetrating the surface of the soil. Without watering in, they would just lay on top of the ground and the weed seeds would germinate underneath and come up as normal.

If applied at the higher rates recommended on the label, they can last until late in the summer before breaking down into harmless compounds. Specific amounts and breakdown time will vary as different soils require different applications, so some fine tuning is necessary to get long term results. Overuse beyond the recommended rates can cause them to build up in the soil from year to year. They bum all roots in their active zone, but the damage to anything other than delicate seedlings is minimal. Applying them to two-leaf seedlings in April showed no effect. Growing plants, including weeds, are safe from any serious harm. Some larger seeds, like tree seeds, can break through the protective layer, but virtually all small seeds will not germinate and will die. If you want annuals and biennials to reseed, do not use pre-emergents in those areas. If you disturb the soil where they are used, they must be reapplied immediately because buried seeds will be brought up to a level where they can grow.

Though easy to find in garden centers, Preen is generally too expensive to use for more than small areas. For larger areas, visit your local nursery supply store and buy a professional product like Surflan if you have a sprayer, or Snapshot if you prefer a granular. Snapshot is the choice of many nurseries, and it includes some extra protection against some difficult weeds and grasses. Professional products are only sold in fairly large quantities, so you may want to split a purchase with a friend or two. These products are not restricted in any way, and no license is required to buy or use them.

So, how well do they work? The answer is very, very well indeed. The results of using Surflan in several hosta gardens I have seen were nothing short

of amazing. In one large garden, several annual weeds had gotten completely out of control and there were probably millions of seeds waiting to germinate when the weather warmed up the following year. Surflan was sprayed at the higher recommended rate in all the garden beds, and by mid-July there were hardly any weeds to be seen there. The surrounding lawn had not been sprayed and there was a wide border of grass around the beds where weeds were coming up in the thousands, where they then met the lawnmower.

March in the garden is not normally the busiest of seasons, so it is a good time to set aside a day to apply a pre-emergent herbicide. A few hours work then will save you many hours of work later in the season when you want to be enjoying the garden rather than weeding day after day. If you are overrun with common annual weeds like Oxalis and Purslane, you can expect dramatic results. When you have totaled the cost of using pre-emergent herbicides, consider whether it is worth that much to safely and easily reduce your yearly weeding to a minimum.

Cost Analysis at heaviest recommended rates (for maximum control):

For generic Oryzalin purchased in a 2 1/2 gallonjug, approx. \$3.00 per 1,000 square feet.

Will need a backpack sprayer at approx. \$100.

For Snapshot purchased in a 50 lb. bag, approx. \$10.00 per 1,000 square feet. More effective on more weeds than Preen.

For Preen purchased in a 17.5 lb. container, approx. \$11.00 per 1,000 square feet for same coverage as Snapshot.

For Preen purchased in a 61b. container, approx. \$15.00 per 1,000 square feet for same coverage as Snapshot.

2007 Dues

We will be sending out the 2007 dues statements shortly. Some of you have paid through 2007 (also new members) and since we do E-mail posting we will let those that are paid know their status. We urge you to join early so you will be included in the 2007 Year Book.

