

Prairie Hosta Herald

October 2009 Volume 6 Number 7

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.

IPHS Annual Fall Banquet

Saturday, October 24, 2009 - 12:00 noon

Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd, Urbana, IL

We welcome you to the 5th Annual Fall Banquet of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society. Our annual banquet will be held in one of Champaign-Urbana's favorite restaurants, Milo's Restaurant, located in southeast Urbana at the corner of Philo Road and Windsor Avenue. From 12:00 to 12:30 there will be a cocktail hour (cash bar) and at 12:30 we will be seated for lunch. At 1:30 we will hold our Annual Meeting with election of officers for the 2010 through 2011. At 2:00 PM we will have a presentation by Linda and Ron Williams of Indianapolis entitled "Top Ten Favorite International Gardens".

Linda and Ron operate Garden Travelers and will take us on a virtual tour of their top ten favorite international gardens. World travelers and group travel agents for over 30 years they plan and lead group trips to unique and private destinations worldwide. Gardens are always on the itinerary, however, participants also visit famous historical and cultural sites. Linda and Ron's trips offer travelers a one-of-a-kind experience and unforgettable memories.

By separate attachment you will find the reservation form for the banquet. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you there.

Officers for 2009

President - Susan Weber

1st Vice President - Programs - Cynthia Helms

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 - Sue & John Maggio

Newsletter- Rick and Barb Schroeder

Philanthropic - Susan Weber

Plant Sale - Mary Ann Metz

Publicity - Fran Smith

Leaf Show - Mary Ann Metz

Trips - Rick Schroeder

Please volunteer and help these chairpersons.

Future Meetings

Once again we have reached the end of a great year. We hosted our first (and last) convention, had great meetings and garden tours and now look forward to the Annual Meeting.

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in February/March 2010 and we will be listing the meetings for that year in that space. Barb and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and we have enjoyed bringing you each issue of the Prairie Hosta Herald.

Election of officers for 2010

The nominating committee has recommended the following for society offices:

Secretary - Vickie Morris

Vice President - Programs - Richard Issacs

Board Member-at-Large - Fran Smith

These nominations were presented at the September meeting and will also be presented at the Annual Dinner.

Hosta Price Lists

Likes, Dislikes and Other Observations

By Ray Rodgers

When I look at hosta price lists, whether hard-copy or via the Internet, I am most appreciative of the lists that provide a great deal of detail. The more detail one has, the more apt they are to make a purchase decision that will bring joy to them and to those visiting their gardens. The more that is known about hostas and those that introduce them, the more useful the detail becomes.

Most sellers (vendors) specializing only in hostas would consider it price prohibitive to including as much detail as I would like on their hard-copy price list. Fortunately, a number of vendors produce paper and electronic price lists. Website lists typically provide more detail and pictures.

Some hard-copy lists are enhanced by a few pictures, but on electronic lists, pictures are a must for me. Keep in mind that vendors typically use the most flattering picture they have access to. Also be aware that it is very difficult to depict colors exactly, especially shades of blue. For additional photos, I highly recommend checking out the Hosta Library, <http://www.hostalibrary.org>.

There are a few larger-scale growers, offering a wide variety of plant material, that do promote their offering in high quality catalogs. Two of the ones

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New AHS Website

Check out the new and improved AHS web site. It can still be found at www.hosta.org.

This site is really improved and updated and takes you to the home page of each local society. There is a section being developed for members only and will require a password for access. You will find many items not previously listed on the web site and there is even a section being developed for site sponsors. Check it out and become a member.

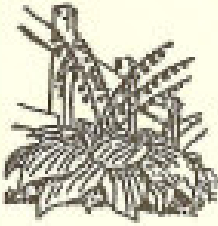
Membership Renewal Time

Once again we have reached that time of year to renew our membership. Attached to this issue of the Prairie Hosta Herald is the 2010 membership renewal form.

Please complete, include your email address and bring to the September meeting or mail to:

Susan Krumm
508 S. James St.
Champaign, IL 61821

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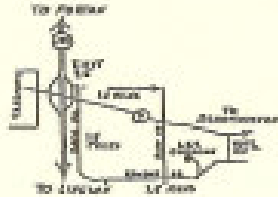


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Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it. ~Author Unknown



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

New Members

We welcome the following to the IPHS:

Tracy Edwards, 2230 Woodard Lane, St. Joseph, IL

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

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most familiar to me are Klehm’s Song Sparrow Farm & Nursery and Plant Delights Nursery.

In my opinion, lists that only include the following are providing the bare minimum and should be avoided, unless the potential buyer is familiar with the vendor and with the plants of interest.

Hosta Name	Description	Size (Mini, S, M, L, Giant)	Price
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Additional details often included in price lists include:

Registered By	Year Registered	Parentage	Plant Dimensions
			Leaf Dimensions
			Flower Color
			Scape Color
			Introduced by if not Registered (NR)
			Ploidy if other than Diploid

I know of one list that even provides the number of vein pairs in typical cultivars’ leaves.

It is very important to most buyers to know whether single or multi-eyed divisions will be provided. On occasion, when double-eyed divisions are promised, one may be the recipient of two single division plants. This happens more commonly with newer introductions.

When offering a hosta with splashed variegation, description should include whether the plant sets viable seed. Splashed is the correct term according to the American Hosta Society (AHS), yet most people still refer to this form of variegation as streaked. Such plants are often referred to as breeder plants. With

just a few exceptions, splashed hostas are unstable, meaning given enough time without division, they will stabilize into an edge- or centered-variegated or solid-colored plant. It is not unusual for splashed hostas to display all forms in a single clump.

Most vendors do a pretty good job of documenting which plants are viridescens, albescent, or lutescent, although they seldom use these words, see below:

- Viridescens - possessing leaves which begin the season lighter colored and become more green as the season advances
- Albescent - possessing leaves which begin yellow or more pigmented and become whiter as the season progresses; i.e. H. ‘Gold Standard’
- Lutescent - possessing leaves which begin the season darker and become lighter or more yellow as the season progresses; not the same as bleaching due to poor nutrition or too much sun

Hostas for which Plant Patents have been granted, or Plant Patents have been applied for (PPAF) are also typically documented.

For some people, knowing whether the plant being offered is Originator’s Stock (OS) or propagated from Tissue Culture (TC) is of importance. Typically, vendors feel they can price OS plants at a premium. It is often difficult to get some of the more unusual plants to come true to form via TC. In such cases, it is advantageous for vendors to document this fact to help justify the asking price.

There are a variety of other terms occasionally used in lists. If unfamiliar with any, definitions may be found in the Dictionary of Hosta Terms, available on the AHS website, <http://>

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Future Conventions and Meetings

We will start 2010 off with the MRHS Winter Scientific Meeting be held on January 23, 2010 at the Marriott Hotel in Schaumburg, IL. Check the MRHS web site for more details. If you plan to attend the MidAm at McCormick Place do this on Friday and stay overnight for the Saturday event.

For those of you that like to attend Hosta College it will be held in Piqua, OH on March 19 & 20, 2010.

March 27, 2010 will also be the C-U Master Gardeners biannual Saturday Garden Day Seminar. There will be more information listed in the first issue next year.

The 2010 American Hosta Society Convention will be in Bloomington, MN from June 22 to June 26

The 2010 Midwest Hosta Society Convention, sponsored by the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society, will be in Des Moines, Iowa from July 8 to July 11.

In 2011 the AHS Convention will be in Marlborough, MASS sponsored by the New England Hosta Society and held June 21-25. That same year the MRHS Convention will be in Madison, WI sponsored by the SE Wisconsin Hosta Society and held July 7-9.

For your long range planning the 2012 AHS will be in Nashville, TN, June 13-16 and the MRHS Convention will be in Rochester, MN, July 12-14.

Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons. ~Dave Barry

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www.americanhostasociety.org/HostaDictionary.html, or other publications found therein.

I would guess that many people would be interested in lists that include AHS awards won by particular plants or leaves of particular plants. Especially for those newer to hostas, the latest AHS Popularity Poll results should be of interest, as well as the American Hosta Growers Association's (AHGA) "Hosta of the Year" designations, see http://www.hostagrowers.org/ahga_hosta.html.

Most price lists include a guarantee that the plants provided are true to name and will be properly labeled upon receipt. Encouraged by the AHGA, an increasing number of member retailers are also guaranteeing their plants to be pest and disease free. To me, such guarantees should be sought out and should provide an added level of confidence, especially when considering ordering from a nursery one is less familiar with.

Many price lists include a variety of comments like "a great specimen", "a real showstopper", "sure to be a classic", etc. Made in good faith, comments like these may grab readers' attention and help sell plants, but what is more important to me is what I

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Membership

American Hosta Society

Contact Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079-3029. 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. (Note Barb's article, all 2009 members will receive a 1-year membership in MRHS for 2010)

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consider value-added comments, like the following examples:

- Plants offered are 2nd year tissue culture. (plant specific)
- H. *'Blue Flame' may be the same as 'Secret Love' (sports of 'Fragrant Blue')*.
- H. *'Dream Queen' is similar to 'Dream Weaver' and 'Thunderbolt.'*
- H. *'First Love' will be an early riser and can use protection from spring frosts.*
- H. *'Guacamole' does best if planted in a sunnier location.*
- H. *'Summer Music' is a slow grower and needs bright morning sun to grow well.*
- H. *'Tokudama Aureonebulosa' and 'High Society' are slow growing but worth the wait.*
- H. *'Tortifrons' dark green leaves have a corkscrew effect, twisting as the thin blades reach upward. Must be grown in lots of sun to accomplish this effect.*
- H. *'Yellow Polka Dot Bikini' is quite distinctive early on but as it changes, it begins to look very similar to 'Hanky Panky'.*
- *Grow H. 'Cherish' in an open area with moist soil, where it will not dry out or be eaten by large, more aggressive plants.*

Of the price lists I have viewed, Naylor Creek Nursery provides the most value-added information, see <http://www.naylorcreek.com>.

Some vendors continue to offer plants that have a well documented history of having rather serious cosmetic flaws (spring desiccation burn, melting out, etc.), and/or plants that are considered by many as difficult to grow. I'm sure vendors have their reasons for offering such plants, but what really irks me is when only the positives are promoted, and no reference is made about potential negatives. When such sales are gained from less knowledgeable buyers, the potential for repeat business may unknowingly be lost. In my opinion, providing only good to great garden plants should build the vendors reputation and likely result in increased sales.

Although vendors don't typically state the flaws of the plants they are offering, other vendors occasionally point out flaws of particular plants if they are offering a plant they consider better. Example: H. *'Olive Bailey Langdon' resembles 'Frances Williams' without all of the unsightly blemishes on the golden part of the foliage.*

Another negative I occasionally see, which I believe is merely the result of not updating descriptions, is the reference to "new" used in the descriptions of hostas that have been in the trade for a number of years. Albeit unintentional, this could be misleading. The use I am referring to is not the same as when vendors denote plants that are being offered by them for the first time or offered again after an absence of one or more years.

Be cautious when you see statements like "improved version of...." in the description of newer hostas. If a sport has a wider edge than the parent, brighter coloration, or if the original plant is a diploid and the sport is a tetraploid, I think most hosta enthusiasts would consider these as improved versions, but not all sports are improvements over the parent.

There are thousands of hosta varieties available in the trade today and more entering each year. Based on parentage and coloration, well-informed hosta vendors will have a pretty good idea if newer varieties should or will likely not develop into quality garden worthy plants. Hopefully such vendors will add only the best of the new introductions to their offering. Just as I would expect all vendors to continually add new varieties to their product offering, I believe they should also be responsible enough to drop-off underperformers.

REMEMBER
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL TIME