

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

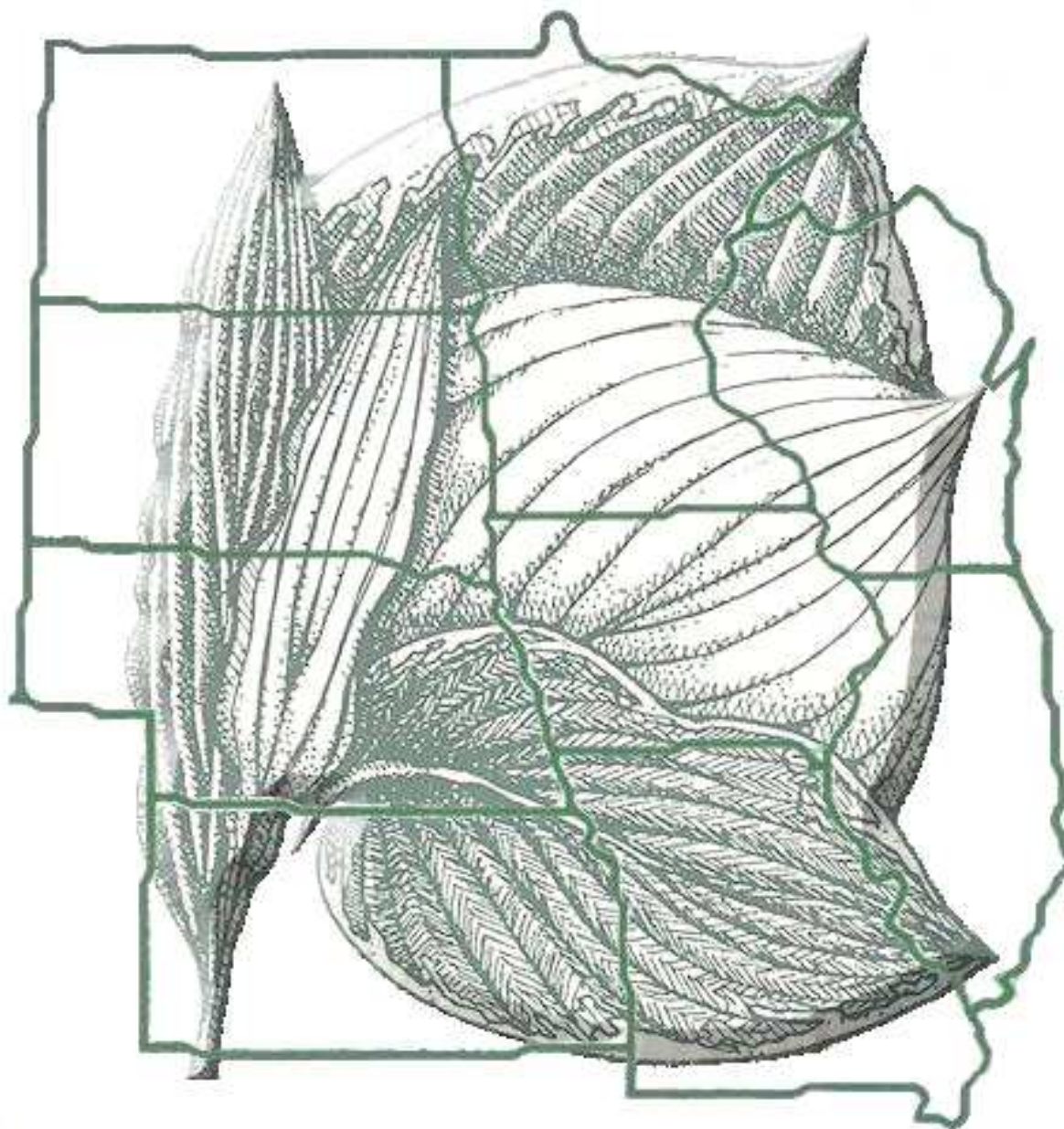
HOSTA LEAVES

ISSUE NUMBER 61

FALL 2006

WINTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



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President's Message

The annual convention held in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area this summer was a huge success. There were over 270 people in attendance. The gardens were stunning. For us, the Hosta Show was a huge success, in part because Becki won Best of Section with her huge pot of *H. 'Victory'*. It was the first show she had ever entered. Needless to say, she likes the Hosta Show more than ever. A big thank you goes to the Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society, and in particular Jack Barta and Chuck Steele, the co-chairs, for extending a warm cheese-head welcome, and showing us a great time.

On a more official note, I am sorry that Scott Hildebrandt is stepping down from the board. (See his note on the following page.) It has been a great honor and privilege to have worked with him over the years. He has been a big supporter of the MRHS and has worked very hard to keep the MRHS a strong and vibrant society. Thank you, Scott, for all your help and support. I hope that after your work and family commitments ease up, you will return to the board and continue to help the MRHS.

With this opening in the board, I have asked Lou Horton to fill the remaining portion of Scott's term as Vice-President. Lou is the current President of the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, and I believe will work hard to help the MRHS stay the course in the future. There is another vacancy on the board, that of the past President. I have asked Roger Koopmans if he will fill this vacancy for the remainder of my term, and he has agreed. This will give the board of directors a full compliment of members, so we can have meaningful meetings and accomplish the work of the society.

The next big event of the society is the Winter Scientific Meeting. It will be held Saturday, January 20, 2007, at the same location as in the recent past in Schaumburg, Illinois. See the announcement in this newsletter for details. This is a perfect opportunity to get back in the swing of things with hostas, after the Holiday season is over, and before the long wait until one can work in the garden again. It is a great time to see old friends, make new ones, and hear some great information presented about our favorite plants, and gardening in general. I hope you can be there.



Tom Micheletti

Transitioning Continued

After having to miss my first MRHS summer convention in twelve years (I missed seeing all of you), I began thinking what is best for the MRHS organization. As stated in the Spring 2006 MRHS *Hosta Leaves* newsletter, I am very busy with my family and work, and those time commitments continue to mount up.

My role as the City of Des Moines Rose Garden Curator, taking care of over 2,500 roses, really keeps me wrapped up during the summer months now, not allowing me much extra time. (Please come visit our Rose Garden sometime.) As well, both of my sons are in sporting, church and scouting activities keeping us all the more active close to home. I have continued to deliberate on what is best for you as the MRHS membership.

These concerns were again recently discussed with our MRHS President, Tom Micheletti, and an agreed-upon decision was made for me to step down from the MRHS board as the Vice President at this time. My first term as VP would have ended in Summer 2007 anyway and I had already been considering declining a second term because of the reasons stated above. This will allow someone to be appointed as VP now and make a smoother transition for the MRHS board next summer.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you on the MRHS board as the Treasurer, interim President and Vice President for the past 6 years.

Sincerely,
Scott Hildebrandt

AHS Award

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society sponsors the “Best Use of Hostas in Garden Design” award at the annual AHS convention. The award was the Isabel Bloom sculpture, *Gathering Blooms*. It was donated by Isabel Bloom and its beauty was much appreciated by the over 500 people in attendance at the award ceremony.

This year’s recipients are Barbara and Robert Tiffany. The Tiffanys certainly deserved the award - their garden is spectacular. The description of their home (a converted gristmill named MillFleurs) and garden is:

“Situated around a 1742 gristmill on the To-hickon Creek in Bucks County, Pa., the gardens surrounding MillFleurs are built on a very dramatic site which slopes steeply down to the stream’s edge. Although this garden contains the largest collection of hostas in the Philadelphia area (over 1,000 different species and cultivars), the beds themselves are woven across rocky slopes with exceptional artistry and include many collections of rare and unusual woodland perennials.”



Barbara & Robert Tiffany with *Gathering Blooms*

AHS Hosta Registry

<http://hostaregistrar.org>

Every now and then a new web site will pop up on the internet that becomes an invaluable resource and tool for its intended audience. I am pleased to announce such a web site for hosta enthusiasts the world over.

The Hosta Registry of the American Hosta Society, located at <http://hostaregistrar.org>, is a free online search utility for the official registry records of the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the plant genus hosta. I have had the pleasure of working with Kevin P. Walek, the Hosta Registrar, and utilizing the current hosta registration database to create a simple, searchable, powerful utility. That utility is now available to you via the internet.

The first phase of a more detailed plan is what you now have available. **The *Hosta* Registry** contains five powerful search utilities.

1. Cultivar Name Search
2. Hybridizer Name Search
3. Leaf Color Search
4. Leaf Characteristic Search
5. Parentage Search

Each of the five search forms is fairly identical, but asks for different information. Before you click the submit button or press the “enter” key on your keyboard, make sure you understand the three special options that are available under each submittal form. This is where you see a checkbox/radio button to help you focus your search. The three options are:

1. all words
2. any of the words
3. exact phrase

Experimenting with these options will demonstrate the extra capabilities of the online database search feature. For example, if you are doing a **Cultivar Name Search** and enter **sum and** into the box, and submit your search for “all words”, your search results will yield the single cultivar *H.* ‘Sum And Substance’.

However, the identical search for **Sum And** with “any of the words” selected returns 161 cultivar names on 4 pages of search results. The first three cultivars returned are: *H.* ‘Alex **Sum**mers’, *H.* ‘Alice In Wonderland’, and *H.* ‘All This **And** Heaven Too’.

Your results are served with a maximum of 50 cultivars per page. Clicking on the cultivar name brings up a “detail page” for that specific cultivar containing detailed information about your selection. You may then click the “previous page” link on the current web page to return to your main results page, or you may use the “back button” in your web browser. The main results page also has indicators and controls informing you how many cultivars match your search criteria and how many pages of search results there are. The controls allow you to navigate through the results quickly.

Hybridizer Name Search: This utility queries the following fields of the database to return matching cultivar names:

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1. Registrant
2. Originator
3. Introducer
4. Nominant

The “registrant” is the primary field of the four that are referenced most often in discussing hostas. However, all four of these fields are tracked in **The Hosta Registry** and this search can be very informative.

Leaf Color Search: This search utility allows you to search the Hosta Registry for cultivars that have particular colors in the leaf center and the leaf margin. To refine your search you should use the special selector buttons. For example: a search for “**blue white**” and selecting “all words” returns 150 cultivars, while the same search with “any of the words” returns 1,585 cultivars. A list of primary search keywords is also located below this search form to assist you in running your query.

Leaf Characteristics Search: This search utility will search four specific database fields. These are:

1. Leaf Appearance
2. Leaf Shape
3. Leaf Top Texture
4. Petiole Characteristics

Below the search box you will see some suggested keywords/phrases that will help you define your search.

Parentage Search: Use this search form to search the registry for specific hosta cultivars that have specific cultivars recorded for these three parentage fields:

1. pod parent
2. pollen parent
3. sport of a particular variety

You will notice that the main results for all five searches are served with up to 50 per page. Additionally, each of the main results pages is custom formatted for the type of search being conducted.

There are some other wonderful features included in **The Hosta Registry** such as the ability to display, print, and even download all the previously printed checklists that have been published. These are available in either Flash Paper or PDF document form. I recommend the Flash Paper option as the files are smaller in size and the interface is better than for the PDF documents.

You will also be able to print and download a Registration Form for registering new hosta cultivars. Soon you will have the option to complete your hosta registrations online, including payment and image submission.

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to develop **The Hosta Registry** for the American Hosta Society. Kevin Walek was definitely the driving force that made this resource a reality. Kevin can also be contacted for all your hosta registration questions and comments regarding **The Hosta Registry**.

Glorious Gardening, Bobby Baxter

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corner, WI



Trial Gardens

In the 1920's, the farmland that is now Boerner Gardens, was purchased by Alfred L. Boerner and Charles B. Whitnall. Boerner designed the botanical gardens in what became Whitnall Park. The original gardens included annuals, perennials, rock garden material, and rose and peony gardens. Later, a trial garden was added in 1950, a bog walk in 1966, and a daylily walk and shrub rose collection in the 70's.

The purpose of the garden is threefold: to serve as a "living museum" of plants, to teach the public about the use of native and exotic plants suit-

able for landscape use in the Milwaukee area, and to foster an appreciation of the historical significance of the Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Our first view of the garden occurred when the bus dropped us off by the trial garden beds. Row upon row of brightly colored annuals and perennials greeted us.

So too, under shade cloth in a side bed, did hostas that were being tested for hardiness and the ability to grow in the Milwaukee climate. Among those being tested were *H.* 'Katie Q', *H.* 'Corn Belt' and *H.* 'Lemon Frost'.



***H.* 'Lemon Frost'**

H. 'Lemon Frost' had a profusion of beautiful purple flowers and would be a great addition to any garden. At Boerner, only after several years of evaluating for worthiness are the plants moved into the permanent gardens. The characteristics evaluated include sun/shade needs, heat tolerance, leaf substance and flowering capabilities.



***H.* 'Katie Q' & *H.* 'Corn Belt'**

Once we left the trial gardens we walked across the parking lot, through the beautiful main building with a gift shop and conference facilities out into the display gardens.

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In 2003, the American Hosta Society designated Boerner Gardens as an official American Hosta Society Display garden. Very few are chosen for this distinction. The Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society works very closely with the Boerner Botanical Gardens horticultural staff to make certain the gardens receive the most up-to-date hostas for evaluation. Since 1996 SEWHS has donated over 200 hosta varieties for the gardens. There are currently more than 350 varieties planted in the perennial gardens with another 60 varieties being evaluated in the trial garden.

Using our self-guiding map of the Hosta gardens, we were able to locate the hostas of our choice. The guide told us that *H.* ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ was in bed 15; *H.* ‘Lochness Monster’ in bed 21; *H.* ‘Touch of Class’ in the Trial Garden. The guide was invaluable in locating the hostas we wanted to see.

In addition to hostas, there are many other beautiful plants in the garden. Particularly impressive was the snakeroot which was blooming in great profusion under the forest canopy.

One particularly beautiful spot was the fern grotto. Vines covered the walls. There was a cool waterfall and quiet pond to keep the shaded ferns and astilbe moist. Whether you enjoyed it from the sunlight above or the cool shade on the rocks below, it was a beautiful, quiet, cool spot on a hot day.



Cimicifuga acerina (Snakeroot)



Boerner's Fern Grotto

Submitted by Betsy Rogers

The Steele Garden, Cedarburg, WI

On a quiet country road, we stopped at 450 Horns Corner Road, Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The combination of a narrow drive, arborvitae, and other trees and bushes helped seclude the home and gardens of Gail and Chuck Steele. A mature triple-trunked birch anchored the front yard. Mature crab apples lined the drive and a winding walk edged with mature hostas and various flowers welcomed us to the front door of their home. As we proceeded down the driveway to the rear of the home, we were invited into the patio and deck area by a plethora of potted plants. Some unusual, some large, many annuals were blooming and all displayed to perfection. A huge grapevine and wisteria afforded shade over a portion of the patio.

A trio of hostas was showing off along the garage/green house. A *Hosta* 'Just So' was spectacular in size, color and quantity of leaves. A happy *H.* 'Whirlwind' provided contrast to the grouping and the largest *H.* 'Lakeside San Kao' I've seen sparkled in this shady spot. A few steps further into the morning sun, a suntanned blooming *H.* 'Elvis Lives' was displaying its size and unique color.



H. 'Just So'

Adjoining the garage was a unique greenhouse/potting shed. I felt that it was more than that. A sunny retreat with windows on three sides and most of the amenities a gardener would want, including a root cellar. A three season room, for sure, to enjoy and observe the garden and weather.

In a sunny open spot a unique, twisted, curly-leaf baby locust was surrounded by forty-eight roses. Scattered throughout the garden were conifers and trees which gave substance, uniqueness and shade to the hosta collection.



H. 'Dream Weaver' & *H.* 'Jack of Diamonds'

My favorite hosta grouping featured a large *H.* 'Dream Weaver' in the background, framed by a super *H.* 'Jack of Diamonds' on one side and an *H.* 'Old Glory' on the other. Medio-variegated, smaller hostas provided upfront contrast together with a waxy, shiny green hosta. A wonderful presentation and contrast in this planting.

I would be remiss in not noticing the vari-

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ous structural components of the garden. Among the more obvious were several vertical structures in various colors, bird baths, of different sizes, and a unique set of dated hosta stepping-stones in a one-of-a-kind finish.

Many conventioners enjoyed the “suggestive” bed. A tidy framed bed, complete with a headboard. *H.* ‘Bridegroom’ was comfortably resting there, together with about twenty other hostas, which included *H.* ‘Little Town Flirt’, *H.* ‘Satisfaction’, *H.* ‘Oh My Heart’, and others of a more risqué nature. I am sure *H.* ‘Toms Dream’ and *H.* ‘My Darling’ would also be welcomed into this bed.



H. ‘Peter Rue?’

The backyard berms helped lend variety to the topography, as the Steele’s yard is relatively flat. Another larger hosta clump that caught my eye was an atypical *H.* ‘Peter Ruh’. This well grown specimen had a unique color pattern that was certainly interesting and eye pleasing. As a farewell, a huge *H.* ‘Golden Anniversary’ was blooming its heart out in the front of the home.



H. ‘Golden Anniversary’

Thank you Steele’s for allowing us to survey your wonderful hosta collection. It is truly a garden with many different textures and flavors to savor.

Submitted by Ed Schulz



Ugly Slugly

by Walter Cullerton

Reprinted from the *Tri-State Tribune*, newsletter for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Kids love to play with them. The French eat them. So do ducks and toads, but for us, the home gardener, these slimy little creatures are disgusting and destructive to our favorite (and not so favorite) annuals and perennials. Who are these guys, really, and how do we get rid of them? Well friend, read on and I'll tell you how to control if not rid your garden of these slimy little creatures.

First and foremost understand that the slug, or Phylum Mollusca as botanists like to call them, are spineless little creatures related to the snail. In fact they're homeless snails. No shell, so instead they hide under a stone, a board, a brick, some mulch, just any place where there's some shade and a little moisture. Now, slugs are hermaphrodites meaning they have both male and female sex organs...but let's not go there today. They crawl on their bellies exuding this mucous-like stuff and have been known to go over glass and up six-foot stone walls. All trying to get to your prized plant for dinner. Creative and persistent little buggers. Oops, I mean slugs.

There are many products on the market to help you get rid of slugs, but most have toxic chemicals such as metaldehyde. One that doesn't is a product called Sluggo. It may be environmentally friendly but it'll slime your pocketbook. So why not keep the environment safe from potentially harmful chemicals and hang on to your money as well. I'm going to recommend several methods to control slugs, all quite effective, and at no cost or inexpensive. I realize that you may prefer one to the other and that's okay; they all work.

Beer. Yup, good old-fashioned beer. I love it. Slugs love it even more. I place a clean empty tuna can (or anything similar) with the top at ground level close by my (and the slugs) favorite plant. Fill it about halfway with beer. The next day, if you had a slug in the neighborhood, you'll find him/her drowned in the beer pool along with a bunch of friends. Just bear in mind that they died happy. Empty the can and start over again.

Coffee grounds. This method is cool. Drink coffee, save the grounds and let them dry a bit. I was told to spread them on a sheet of newspaper to dry out but I've skipped this step and there are no problems. I spread the grounds in a circle around the plant(s) I want to protect. Perhaps ½ inch wide and ¼ inch high. Do it without the ruler, just get the feel. The PH of the soil is not affected, as the grounds are PH neutral. The grounds are a form of mulch and provide a barrier I've never seen a slug cross. How about that? Some of my friends have gone to Starbucks and other coffee palaces to pick up grounds several times a week. Recently, our Starbucks has packaged their coffee grounds in a ten-pound bag labeled "FREE COFFEE GROUNDS FOR YOUR GARDEN" along with a PH comment and directions for use. They're obviously quite happy to have you cart them off. You're happy, the coffee palace is happy and the slugs are not. That's a victory in my book!

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Ammonia. The plain old household kind and it's no doubt in your laundry room now, so you won't need to go out and buy it. Pay attention, as this is not only effective but also a lot of fun. Get a spray bottle or two or three. A 22 or 32-ounce size, it really doesn't matter. Usually some household product like Windex or Lysol comes in such a bottle. One can even buy them, empty, in the supermarket. I have three strategically placed around the garden. Fill the bottle with one part ammonia and five parts water. That's it. When you see a slug, one spray and the slimy little creature is a goner. Any excess that drifts onto a plant is no problem since it is a very weak fertilizer. I suppose that could even be a benefit, but I've never looked at it that way. A "slug safari" is what Max Levy calls it. Max told DVHS members about this method some years ago. He had one of those toy super-soaker guns and a miner's hat with a light on top and he would go out hunting at nighttime. Joy in slaying Ugly Slugly.

Diatomaceous earth. This stuff is the fossilized microscopic skeletal remains of a diatom. I must admit I have never tried it but folks who have are believers. The problem is you have to "buy it". Heck, why do that when the other methods are free. There are two grinds of this stuff. One is essentially a powder. The other a slightly larger grind and this is the one you want. Put it around your plant and it supposedly cuts to shreds the underbelly of the slug as he/she tries to cross over it. Too painful for me to even think about.

Well, friends, now you know to control if not rid your garden of these slimy little creatures. Have fun.



Irwin and Joanne Johnson's Garden, Elm Grove, WI



The moment my foot hit the driveway, I was greeted by a smiling, firm handshaking, Irwin Johnson and an even more enthusiastic Joanne Johnson.

These two have created a garden that truly reflects their personalities. The garden comforts, soothes and speaks of promising views as you look up the hill, but it says sit here and look first! (Doesn't that sound like Irwin?)

I have seen mass plantings of hosta before, but the 1600 *H. lancifolia* used as ground cover and erosion control on the front lawn was amazing. No, I did not count them. Irwin told me there were 1600 and after all, I only had 45 minutes to relax and enjoy this wonderful place.

A truly inspiring garden doesn't give away all its secrets at once. You have to explore all the nooks and crannies before it reveals its true self. This garden does just that. There were:

- Birdbaths and feeders, small intricate artworks swaying in the breeze from a branch of a young Japanese maple or dwarf conifer
- Large iron artworks that contrast with the mature clumps of blue or variegated hosta into which they are standing
- Water features, hidden except for the calming sound of the water that intrigues you to seek out its point of origin.



This garden is host to an assortment of deciduous trees, a dwarf conifer collection, a collection of hosta with over 400 varieties, shade companion plants, sunny perennials to attract the butterflies, even a small retail business. But the best part is, it has Irwin and Joanne Johnson!

Submitted by Lance Ferguson

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More...



Though I have been to the Johnson garden a number of times, each time I visit I am greeted by something new and exciting beyond beautiful plants in beautifully tended, shady beds, home to hostas, astilbe, ferns, heuchera, brunnera, and many more shade plants.

This time, at the back of the yard nestled among over 400 varieties of beautiful hostas, was an amazing half bench. We were all very impressed by its design, which Irwin told us he could still get the plans for, and I wanted to share some pictures of it with you. The amazing thing about this bench is that it has two roles. In one, it is a regular bench, and comfortable at that. In the other, it is half of a picnic bench, allowing those eating in the garden to put their plate on a table

and look out over the magnificent yard. The way it is hinged allows it to change roles. A number of the engineers and woodworkers among us had a great time trying it out and trying to figure out how it was made. Image your child or grandchild playing in the yard; for a while they sit and gaze at the birds and butterflies playing in the garden; then, all of a sudden lunch time and you don't have to move them. Just flip the bench back up and you have an instant garden table. Amazing! A fine place to stop, enjoy the yard and the company of our hosta loving friends.



Thanks Joanne and Irwin. It was nice seeing your beautiful garden again and enjoying your always warm hospitality. And thanks for a new "bench" idea.



Submitted by Betsy Rogers

The Chuck and Jan Finke Garden, Grafton, WI

The Finke's have owned this beautiful eight-acre piece of ground about ½ mile from Lake Michigan for about 20 years. When they bought it, it bore little resemblance to the way it looks today - few gardens and not all that many trees.



Today it can best be described as a beautiful and gracious place featuring one of the finest collections of hostas (over 450 registered varieties plus thousands of seedlings) that I have ever seen. This is not just a hosta collection, however. To describe it as such would be to diminish it. Hostas are indeed the featured plant because the Finke's are both collectors and hybridizers of hostas, but they are carefully blended with trees, shrubs and perennials in a seamless display of colors, textures and shapes of plant material that

would do a botanic garden proud. Daylilies, true lilies and a seemingly endless number of sedums grace the curving beds and soften the concrete walks around the house.

Perhaps my most vivid impression of the Finke garden is that this was not a garden hastily groomed and augmented specifically for a garden walk. There was no fragrance of freshly laid mulch nor were there numerous juvenile hostas recently added to beef up the collection. What I saw were hundreds of mature, well grown plants showing no signs of having been ravaged by slugs or insects. One gets the impression that this garden was just as well groomed a month before the walk and would be just as well tended a month afterwards.



The Blue Garden

Two beds will have to serve as illustrations of the many highlights for this visitor. First there is the "Blue Garden" under a large mature Locust tree. I counted sixteen mature blue hostas nestled under and around that tree. They were there in all their variations of shape, size, and hue and it made me feel cooler in the heat just looking at them. (*H.* 'Blue Cadet', *H.* 'Bressingham Blue', *H.* 'Blue Diamond', *H.* 'Blue Danube', *H.* 'Pacific Blue Edger', *H.* 'Blue Umbrella', *H.* 'Blue Arrow', *H.* 'Blue Jay', *H.* 'Wheaton Blue', *H.* 'Fragrant Blue',

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H. 'My Blue Heaven', *H.* 'Carolina Blue')

While I am not personally a major fan of dwarf hostas, I could not help but be impressed with the beautiful display of small and dwarf hostas in an artfully designed rock garden. If I counted correctly, there were thirty four plants accented with decorative and distinctive rock and small dwarf conifers in that bed. Having presided over the demise of more than a few dwarf hostas over the years, I could not resist asking Chuck Finke whether his dwarf hosta garden got special

protection during the winter - bubble wrap perhaps? The answer was no, that only the conifers got wrapped to protect them from the deer, not the winter.

I will leave you with a couple of management tips shared by Chuck. He uses "Deadline" slug bait and pine needle mulch to keep the slugs at bay. He also grows his many seedlings in one gallon pots buried in the nursery beds. That makes them very portable without the transplant shock.

Touring the Finke garden was pure pleasure and a must for any hostaphile even close to the Milwaukee area in the future.



Dwarf Hosta Bed

Submitted by Lou Horton

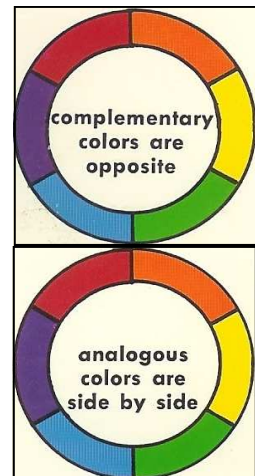


Small Space Gardens An Evening With Melinda Meyers

Each of us wants to improve our garden and often we do so in small ways, in small spaces, one step at a time. At the convention our guest speaker, author, teacher and television personality was Melinda Meyers, an expert in small space gardening. She spoke to us about our yards and what we can do with small spaces. Even in shady hosta gardens there are spots of sunlight and many of us try to make “rooms” in them. Melinda recommended ways to handle those small spaces.

Melinda suggested that there are several keys to success in small space gardening:

1. First, plan and then shop. You need to systematically select those plants that you put in the garden. Design for all four seasons and be sure to put plants together that have similar growth patterns so that one doesn't overtake and kill off the other. Remember too that we all hate pulling weeds, so design with maintenance in mind. Melinda suggested putting 'Jack Snipe' daffodils with 'Spring Beauty' squill, heliotrope with geraniums, caladium with sweet alyssum, sweet alyssum with impatiens, pansies with tulips, purple coneflowers with monkshood, 'Palace Purple' heuchera with gaura, and Korean feather reed grass with purple coneflowers. Be sure to mix your beds and use annuals, perennials and bulbs.
2. Make every space, and every plant, count. Think about location, design, color, texture, and light. Consider plants with added value that bring in the birds and butterflies. And think about the purpose of the spot you are going to plant in. Do you want a meditation area or to utilize that garden spot for dining or reading the newspaper?
3. Tie the indoors to the outdoors. Strive for a harmonious flow of color and texture. Remember that using colors across from each other on the color wheel will provide maximum impact.
4. Make your garden rooms an extension of the house. When you look out a window, design something that brings you comfort. Start with the framework. Sometimes that includes adding a crabapple, redbud, serviceberry, 'Korean Spice' viburnum or cotoneaster to your garden. Ask yourself, do you want privacy? If so, you might consider adding an arborvitae, or zebra grass, or 'Dropmore Scarlet' honeysuckle. Evergreens bring shape to the garden as well



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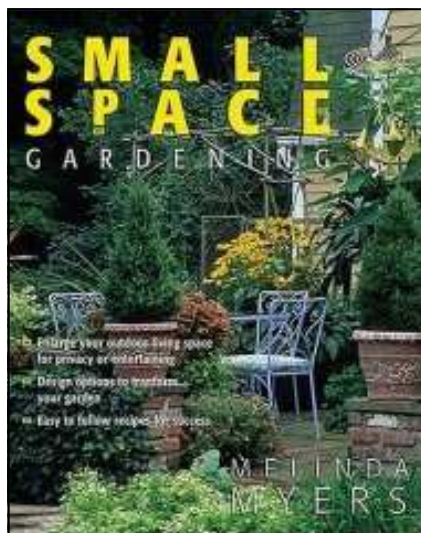
as privacy. Maybe you want a living fence. Melinda showed us a picture of one made out of an espaliered crabapple with verbena at its base.

5. Make the most of borrowed views. Ask yourself, when you look out your window, what do you most enjoy looking at? Incorporate that item into your garden plan. Put color in your shade garden. Green is a color, but so are blue and violet, and they are all cool colors. They are colors that make an area look larger. Red, orange and yellow make large areas look smaller. Use “color echoing”, repeating colors multiple times in a garden, as a part of your plan.
6. And above all, keep it simple. The most effective plans are those that can be easily executed.

Additionally, Melinda spoke about putting visual accents into your small space garden. Sometimes those accents come in the form of containers. She showed slides of impatiens in wall planters and gutter planters. Who ever thought before of using a gutter as a planter? Certainly not I. She also suggested building surprise into containers and suggested we consider using edible material like ornamental corn, tricolor sage, verbena, or purple basil. All bring that “ahh” factor to an otherwise simple container.



She spoke about flooring and suggested we nestle thyme among our stepping stones and plant autumn crocus in our vinca groundcover. For a ceiling, we might entwine Kentucky wisteria or grapevines across a trellis. Or, we might consider hanging baskets over flower beds to draw our eyes up.



In all, Melinda’s program spiked our interest in gardening in small spaces and showed us how to begin. If you would like more information, check out Melinda’s webcast at www.melindamyers.com and/or check your local PBS station for the days and times that *Great Lakes Gardener* appears on television. Be sure also to look for her columns in *Birds and Blooms* and *Backyard Living* magazines. Her book *Small Space Gardening* can be found at your local store or on Amazon.com.

Thank you, Melinda, for a very interesting program.

Submitted by Betsy Rogers

Marshall & Lori Henricks Garden, Menominee Falls, WI

Sloping downward, the Henrick's garden lies to the west of and lower than the road that passes by in front. At the time of our visit, the driveway leading to the garage had been turned into a large sales area covered with hostas. Marshall and Lori Henricks have managed to balance the polar opposites of having a hosta farm and a residential display garden rather well. The overall



sense, if the actual sales area along the driveway is ignored, is that of a display garden rather than a hosta farm. On three sides, large trees border the lot. Under them grow hostas and other perennials. The house has dark red siding with white brick which cuts a sharp contrast to the color of the plants, trees, and grass.

When they moved here twenty-eight years ago, there were only Quaking Aspen trees, which have grown large and serve as a major feature in the landscape. Their white bark and large size plays off well against the color of the house and red garage. The owners have added many other trees and shrubs along with a

tastefully designed water feature in the rear yard. There is a high wood deck across the back of the house with a wide wooden stairs leading down to the yard level.

The water feature starts as a stream flowing from the area near the base of the wood stairs and meanders as a quiet stream edged by granite boulders through various planting areas to a koi pond at the center of the rear yard. The koi share their pond with a duck decoy that coolly floats on the surface while the koi relax below. Since Marshall in real life has a store selling live fish and supplies, he manages the water feature very well. There are bright splashes of floral color around the pond including a favorite of mine, red monarda. Nearby, the red, south wall of the garage faces the side of the rear yard. Against the wall are a series of wooden trellises with clematis



which have already bloomed and faded but still soften the otherwise too bold garage wall. While not universally true, especially in the newer planting areas, the hostas have matured to the point that they form continuous drifts of leaf material yielding a patchwork of color and pattern. Individual plants, generally do not stand out so much in these areas, but act as a living quilt laid upon the earth to form borders for the yard and to outline or define more intimate spaces within the yard.



(Continued on page 19)

There were a few particularly well grown plants that caught my eye, including a first rate copy of *H.* 'First Frost' and a particular favorite of mine, *H.* 'Sunshine Glory' whose large and nearly round apple green to gold and pebbled surface leaves are bordered with a wide creamy white margin. *H.* 'Sunshine Glory' stands out well against the neighboring hostas, some of which were blue and large, others small and variegated, as well as some large, gold. ones I am told by a friend of mine that sells hostas that the variegation pattern of *H.* 'Sunshine Glory' is not very popular, but I really do not understand why as it was very appealing in this setting. There was also a good looking copy of *H.* 'Gypsy Rose' and



H. 'First Frost'

a fine example of *H.* 'Maekawa' that you do not see all that often. At a hosta convention you are bound to see many fine examples of plants too many to mention, but these were a few that I found particularly pleasing.



H. 'Maekawa'

I am always fascinated when I to find new ways of marking plants. Marshall and Lori use clear plastic rectangles that are suspended from black painted wire standards with a coil at the top. The plastic has a hole that accepts the wire coil leaving the plastic hanging vertically below the wire standard. The plant name is furnished by embossed plastic tape affixed to the clear plastic rectangle. The plants were pretty well marked

which is a feature that I find very helpful and lends an air of professionalism to the garden.

As I approached the rear yard walking along at the south side of the house and opposite the side with the driveway, I was amused to find a permanent tree stand and a wood ladder leading up to its platform which, if you do not know, provides a vantage point where a hunter stands up in a tree and out of the normal line of sight of white tailed deer for the ultimate purpose of rendering them dead. There were a pair of deer targets at the side of the yard and across from the tree stand which had a lot of holes in their mid-section. One was an expanded polystyrene deer form and the other was a cardboard cutout of a deer. As I have a fleeting interest in archery myself, I recognized these as instruments of practice for a bow hunter and I asked Marshall if he ever bagged one in his back yard. If he did, he wasn't about to admit to it, but he did indicate that he had recently achieved a state record for one of the many prizes



he has brought home from the field. I am sure that there are quite a few of us who would like to bag a few white-tailed deer as they coolly munch on our favorite hosta foliage or daylily blossom in our own back yards; and I'm not going to admit to anything sinister either.



Submitted by John L. Van Ostrand

Color Perception in the Garden

by Glen Williams

Nearly two years ago the subject of color identification in hosta leaves, petioles and flowers went through the robin like a tornado. Facts were argued, lines were drawn in the sand, opinions were rife. Steve Chamberlain and Frank Nykos did excellent pros and cons articles for *The Hosta Journal*. I became involved because I was particularly interested in color, had some competency, and was looking for a long term project that I might share with the hosta community. As I look back, I think I was/am trying to prove that my last seat placement in science classes was only a matter of the first letter of my last name and not related to my incredible lack of competence. A quixotic quest to say the least.

The basic idea was simple. Make a color chart by which colors in hostas could be judged and compared. This simple start evolved into the following possible goals:

1. Standardize color descriptions of various parts of the hosta so that these descriptions could be used in registration.
2. Facilitate catalogue color descriptions so the buyer will know what he is getting.
3. Prepare a database of existing colors so that research into the color of hostas can examine the effect that zones, soil composition, additives have and can be explored more readily.

I was drawn to this project because of my background (teaching art) and, I must admit, also because a number of people said that it was an impossible task because of the sheer variety of colors, subtle distinctions, the number of variables, and why did we need it? What more stimulus does a child need than to be told that he can't, shouldn't, and will be wasting his time.

This summer I recorded 110 leaf color evaluations between June and October. I used the RHS Colour Chart to do this. More about this later. I am going to present this information in three parts. The first is this introduction. The second part is about color perception, color reality, and what affects how we process color in our minds. The final part will be a description of the procedure I used, some of the results of color evaluation of hosta leaves, and some of the things which I think are interesting with my preliminary results.

Just to be provocative I would suggest that most of what you know about color is wrong. That in attempting to match one color with another you are invariably using the wrong method. And finally that our response to color is both through nature and by nurture thereby making the business of perception and conception that much more difficult.

Color Perception, Reality, and Mythology

Color is not what you may think it is. A color is not likely to be what you remember it as. What you see is not what you get. And just to give you an idea of the nature of color comprehension, try and imagine a new color, a new wave length that will suddenly register through our optic nerves. If you can, give it a name and patent it! Then try and explain what that color is to another person. After this is completed sign up for the Nobel Prize in communication and buy a bumper sticker proclaiming you have experienced the first human version of the Vulcan Mind Meld.

If you hear the first four chords of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* you will no doubt recognize it and would probably be able to repeat it so that another could recognize it. If you are able to read music and read a simple melody you may be able to hear it in your head. Another person with the same capacity would hear the same melody. A test could be made to validate this. Simple. No Wagner allowed!

With color perception neither of these acts can be accomplished with any degree of certitude. When you

(Continued on page 21)

read about a gold-leafed hosta, 50 people reading that sentence may well visualize a different gold. If you attend a cut leaf show and see a wondrous leaf of *H. 'Sum and Substance'* how can you know that you are all seeing the same color? Leaving that leaf behind and having memorized the color, could you pick that color out a day later from a series of color swatches? Don't bet the farm or your clump of *H. 'William Lachman'* on it.

In looking at a color each person will receive the same projection on the retina, but no one can be sure that each person has the same perception.

Color is the most relative medium in the visual arts. It continually deceives. A single color evokes many readings. These three statements are taken from the work of Joseph Albers just as a number of the other ideas in this posting are. In terms of how gardeners need to understand color, Albers ideas are very pertinent.

We are almost never able to see isolated color in the garden. A color exists in a context of many other colors. This is a critical factor in understanding what we think we see. **COLORS ALL INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER.** Let me give you a couple of simple examples. Suppose you have a yellow hosta leaf with a green edge and a green hosta leaf with a yellow edge. Suppose that the two greens and two yellows are identical. In looking at each of the leaves neither the greens nor the yellows will appear to be the same. You will appear to have four different colors rather than two. To make this a little clearer, picture a yellow rectangle of paper with a green dot in the middle. Now reverse the colors. You can probably sense that because of the amount of color interacting with that of another, that the dots and the rectangles of color will appear distinct from a situation where a single color could be isolated.

Let me end this part of the article with something very easy to visualize. In attempting to match color swatches of paint in your house consider the following. Take your swatches from the paint store and use a paper punch to cut a hole in the middle of each swatch. Now place this swatch over what you are trying to match. By containing the color that you want to match to a small circle, and then surrounding that circle with what you hope will match it, you will be able to see immediately whether or not it is a correct match. This method is so much surer than placing the swatch next to, or in a much bigger field, that it is almost laughable. The swatch is swallowed by the big field and may well interact to the detriment of making a like choice. By reversing this and using the dot, comparison is immediate and clear. I just realized I said that was going to be a simple explanation. Time will tell. Trying it is better.

I have written about this method for evaluating color because it is the method which is employed in the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. It is the one which I used to evaluate the color of the hosta leaves this last summer. I guess this is more than enough for part 2 of this effort. In fact it means there will be at least 4 parts. Perhaps if I work some sex and violence into it.....

(Paragraph inserted from comments made by Glen in a robin post) Another aspect of color perception in hostas depends on the surface of the leaf. I find the surface of *H. 'Lakeside Black Satin'* to be unique in the hosta world. Setting aside the dark green coloration there is what can only be described as a tiny granular surface to the leaf of this hosta that plays a major role in our perception of its color. It reflects light in a way that I have not found in any other hosta leaf. To say it simply has a satin surface is certainly half right.

Color

If you are aware of the paintings of Claude Monet the Impressionist, you may find an excellent illustration for the perception of color, based on the time of day. Monet painted a series of haystacks at different hours during the day. In looking at this series (or any of Monet's work) it becomes apparent how critical the hour of garden viewing is. Shadows, the angle of sunlight, the atmosphere itself, and the distance between you and what you are viewing, all play a critical role in our color perception.

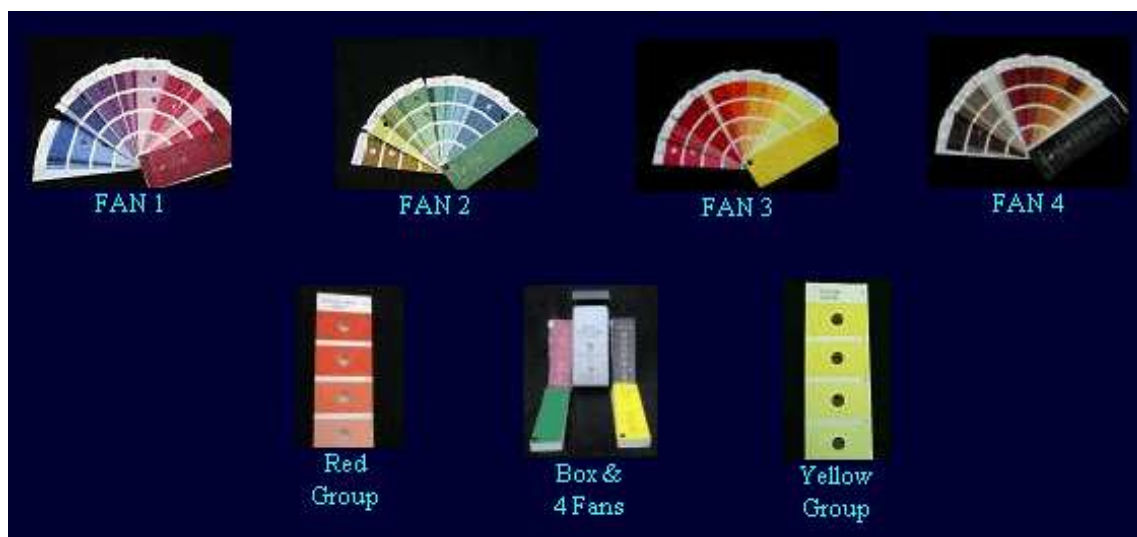
(Continued on page 22)

Monet's granular or impressionistic painting technique also illustrates how our visual sense can "mix" colors at certain distances to create a blur, or an impression of a color which may not be there if examined more closely.

The famous landscape photographer Ansel Adams said that between black and white there were ten values of gray which the human eye can distinguish. In his best photographs you can see an illustration of these ten values and the photos are that much richer because of these subtle distinctions of value. This same capacity to distinguish values plays a special part in appreciating hostas and the color value change which can appear seasonally, or may result from shade/sun placement of the plant. Just think about *H. 'Gold Standard'*-- it is at least five different plants depending on where you place it. A Best Buy.

There is of course a psychological component to color as well as a cultural one. I will stay away from this territory except to suggest that it plays a major role in naming hostas and our role in responding to them.

I referred to a way of evaluating color in a prior posting. The Royal Horticultural Society publishes a color chart which is amazingly comprehensive. It was primarily designed to evaluate the colors of flowers but has a lot of potential for evaluating leaves too. The color chart consists of a set of fans. Each card in the fan has 4 light to dark values of a hue. In each of these there is a central hole. This hole is



placed over the object that you want to evaluate for color. Ideally this is done in a north window or with specific indoor lighting. Identification is difficult to the extent that there are hundreds of colors and if you don't have a basic idea of what you are looking for it could be a lengthy process. This is the method I used this last summer to start my color work.

There is a similar device which has been used by painters for a long time to help them to see isolated color. It is called a spot screen. One uses a small gray card with a hole in the middle. This is held up between your eye and the object you want to examine. You isolate the area where you need to identify the color through the small hole. You then try and match that color by mixing paints. This mixture is placed on a palette knife and held over half of the hole from behind. Once again the isolation and comparison technique allows for easy identification.

Despite the fact that I have only words to work with, I hope I can convince you that while seeing color is complex that evaluating it accurately is not necessarily an onerous task. I have asked you to visualize a lot though, when a simple picture would make it a lot easier. But there is no scanner on Santa's list.

(Continued on page 23)

While learning to see color more clearly, through understanding how easily we can be deceived, is not an unreasonable goal, it is probably comparable to learning to play Malagueña on the accordion. It will not get you invited to the best parties. What has struck me, in my humble role as voyeur at the feast of botanical science, is why the color of the hosta leaf (one of its biggest draws) is left to the world of anecdotes and poetic excursions. I would posit the following:

1. Our own capacity for color deception becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy when it comes to the study of the color of hosta leaves. Too hard. Too many variables. Too many different colors. Too bad. And too many bad colored photos of hostas.
2. Because it is a leaf and not a flower we are not drawn to documentation as we are in the case of any number of precociously colored flowers.

If you have gotten this far you have my admiration. If not, you will never know. The final part will consist of some data, some speculation, and some wild-eyed suggestions which have grown from this last summer's work.

Conclusions

From June of this year through this October I recorded the color of 104 different hosta cultivars. This series of evaluations included 72 green (some with colored margins), 18 "blue", 10 gold/yellow, and six heavily variegated hostas. This had not been the original plan.

Originally I had planned to record information on only 20 different hostas in a much more thorough fashion. I was going to include soil tests, watering and fertilization programs, flower and petioles evaluation, clump maturity, shade and sunlight factors, and 4 timed evaluations through out the growing season for each of these plants. Didn't happen.

Once I started evaluating the leaves I realized I wanted to start with a large number of green leaves first until I got the hang of the color fan and the lighting circumstances. I was finding very little variation and wanted to continue to see what would happen. I stayed away from the blues and the yellow greens intentionally.

In finally evaluating the blues I was interested to see if I could get a match that would deal with the subtle quality of the bloom (wax) on the leaf. I was also interested in seeing if information on the relative blueness of Eric Smith's plants held up to the kind of evaluation that I was doing.

As I worked I discovered that removing the bloom and taking two readings made a lot more sense. Also part way through the summer I decided I should evaluate the color on the backside of the leaf too.

I did a few hostas at the original four different times to check for seasonal changes but not enough to really count. I chose not to do many highly patterned hostas as they seemed to call for a strategy which I have yet to develop. Schmid talks about color percentages on the leaf, but still....

Of all of the hostas which I evaluated for color the golds/yellows were by far the most difficult to match. But I have only done about ten so that may be premature.

Before anyone attacks my methods I do apologize. I certainly want to add major cautionary warnings about my ideas and methods as well as the limitations of my observations. Mine is only one garden in one zone. One set of eyes, built-in biases, shade and light conditions which are certainly variable, as well as its endless. But more importantly it is a start. Next year I will do a little better and will at least get 4 seasonal readings of all of the hostas I have evaluated so far. I welcome any advice or strategy. I do not mind serious criticism as long as it is directed at others.

So here goes. These are some of my very tentative thoughts which grew from this summer's work.

1. Translucency seems to be a significant factor in true hosta color.

(Continued on page 24)

2. The color beneath the bloom is certainly a clear factor in true hosta color, but so is the thickness of the bloom.
3. There is really a very small true color hosta palette while the garden perception palette is very large.
4. I have found only two different greens (not getting into the yellow/greens) and these have a small range of different values of the specific hue. Both *H.* 'Sea Ebony' and *H.* 'Lakeside Black Satin' go off the chart but are included in these greens.
5. Surface texture and gloss, satin and matte surfaces play a major role in general garden perception of hosta color.
6. I feel that the existing color evaluation of Eric Smith's hostas is a matter of general perception in the garden and not based on a specific color reference point.
7. The translucent quality of the edges and interiors of some hostas makes for a very difficult color evaluation.
8. In 14 cases I found that the color of the Celadon streaking matched the same color swatch. I only did 14 which had the streaking so once again it is a limited observation, but does point in a direction.
9. Time and again matches and mismatches in ordinary garden observation proved to be unlike the color when it was evaluated according to the procedure.

This list of nine things was winnowed down from 30. Many of the others were the product of a very active imagination.

I must say that I see myself continuing this program for several years. The current data and speculation is subject to my science failings which were first acknowledged by Madeline Lillicrap, my 7th grade science teacher. Her real name I might add. Please take them as points of discussion, debate, or deletion. But not real science. Yet.



Midwest Regional Hosta Society Show 2006

hosted by the Southeast Wisconsin Hosta Society

July 14, 2006

Brown Deer, Wisconsin

327 entries, 41 exhibitors

| Division I | Horticulture | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Best of Show (Tie) | <i>H.</i> 'Galaxy' | Cindy Tomashek, Rochester, MN |
| | <i>H.</i> 'Lakeside Elfin Fire' | Robert Lamprey, Bryant, WI |
| Best Seedling/Sport | Sport of <i>H.</i> 'Gold Edger' | Ron Simmering, Bettendorf, IA |
| Sweepstakes | | Ed Schulz, Sr., Peosta, IA |
| Section I | <i>H.</i> 'Krossa Regal' | Carolyn Hamilton, Bettendorf, IA |
| Section II | <i>H.</i> 'Galaxy' | Cindy Tomashek, Rochester, MN |
| Section III | <i>H.</i> 'Fleeta Brownelle Woodroffe' | Ed Schulz, Sr., Peosta, IA |
| Section IV | <i>H.</i> 'Blue Danube' | Ed Schulz, Sr., Peosta, IA |
| Section V | <i>H.</i> 'Lakeside Elfin Fire' | Robert Lamprey, Bryant, WI |
| Section VI | (no award) | |
| Section VII | (no award) | |
| Section VIII | unregistered sport of <i>H.</i> 'Piedmont Gold' | Cindy Tomashek, Rochester, MN |
| Section IX | unregistered seedling (unknown) | Cindy Tomashek, Rochester, MN |
| Section X | Sport of <i>H.</i> 'Gold Edger' | Ron Simmering, Bettendorf, IA |
| Section XI | <i>H.</i> 'Guacamole' | Sarah Phelps, Greenfield, WI |
| Section XII | <i>H.</i> 'Shogun' | Kim Larsen, West St. Paul, MN |
| Division II | Container Grown Hosta | |
| Grand Award | <i>H.</i> 'Victory' | Becki Micheletti, Deer Park, IL |
| Division III | Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect | |
| Grand Award | | Roxanne Meyer, Oxford Junction, IA |
| Division VI | Artistic Design | |
| Best Artistic Design | | Bonnie Evensen, Baraboo, WI |
| Division VII | Specialty Division | |
| Grand Award | Sport of <i>H.</i> 'El Capitan' | Marshall Henricks, Menomonee Falls, WI |
| | Seedling (unknown) | Jim Schwartz, Dubuque, IA |



Jack Barta & Chuck Steele



Bonnie Evensen



H'Rootin Tootin'



H'Victory'



Minutes, MRHS Board Meeting July 14, 2006, Brown Deer, WI

The executive board of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society met on July 14, 2006, at the Four Points Sheraton, Brown Deer, Wisconsin, the 2006 convention site. The following were in attendance: Tom Micheletti, President; Chuck Steele, AHS Regional Director-Region 5; Pete Postlewaite, Treasurer; Carolyn Hamilton, Secretary Pro-Tem; and Floyd Rogers, Newsletter Editor.

The Treasurer reported the following balances:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Checking - | \$1,726 |
| Savings - | \$375 |
| Mutual Fund - | \$25,503 |

Pete also reported that membership was at 226, up from the 203 one year ago. Dues are \$20 for 2 years. He also reported the new brochures are now available. Tom will announce this and ask each chapter to take some new brochures back home with them. The old outdated brochures should be thrown away. Gift Certificates for MRHS membership will be given to the winners of the hosta show. Tom advised Chad Blockinger, 3125 St. Anne Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001 should be reimbursed \$120. He was successful bidder for *H. 'Look at That'* in last year's auction and it had a virus at time of purchase.

Tom complimented Floyd on a good newsletter and Floyd announced the expenses had been kept below budget levels - \$3850 vs. a budget of \$5000. Tom advised our web site domain name registration had expired and the same address was not now available so it has been changed to midwesthostasociety.org. This name has been registered for two years at a cost of \$17 and will be automatically renewed. The web site needs to be kept current and Tom asked if Floyd would be the web site administrator.

Chuck Steele advised that new boxes were needed for the hosta show bottles. After convention is over, he will investigate obtaining new boxes. The convention local club is reimbursed from MRHS for ribbons and entry cards. \$400 was spent on ribbons this year and the excess will be passed onto the next convention site.

A recommendation for the following grants will be presented at the membership meeting for final vote:

- \$2000 – AHS Virus Research – we would like to hold this until a final plan is developed
- \$1800 – VanderVeer Botanical Park, Davenport – for labeling and accession labels

Omaha, NE was asked for 2009 convention; Champaign, IL was asked for 2010 and possibly Rochester, MN for the 2011 convention. These will be confirmed at a later date.

As no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Carolyn Hamilton
Secretary Pro-Tem

Minutes, General Meeting June 14, 2006, Brown Deer, WI

A general meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society met on July 14, 2006, at the Four Points Sheraton, Brown Deer, Wisconsin, the 2006 convention site.

The Treasurer reported the following balances:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Checking - | \$1,726 |
| Savings - | \$375 |
| Mutual Fund - | \$25,503 |

Pete also reported that membership was at 226, up from the 203 one year ago. Dues are \$20 for 2 years. He also reported the new brochures are now available. Tom asked that each chapter take some of the new brochures and destroy the outdated ones. Kim Larsen moved the treasurer's report be accepted and Roger Koopmans seconded.

The following grants were presented for approval:

\$2000 – AHS Virus Research – we would like to hold this until a final plan is developed

\$1800 - VanderVeer Botanical Park, Davenport – for labeling and accession labels

Irwin Johnson moved and Wayne Sachs seconded the grants be allowed.

Tom complimented Milwaukee on a good convention. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Carolyn Hamilton
Secretary Pro-Tem

Midwest Regional Hosta Society - Treasurer's Report

For FY July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

| | Actual 7/1/05 - 6/30/06 | Budget 7/1/06 - 6/30/07 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Dues | \$2,510 | \$2,000 |
| Auction* | 0 | 8,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$2,510 | 10,000 |
| Expenses | | |
| Donations | \$1,000 | \$3,800 |
| Newsletter | \$3,999 | 4,500 |
| Brochures | \$178 | 0 |
| Internet | \$209 | 225 |
| Postage & Supplies | \$800 | 900 |
| Awards | \$97 | 500 |
| Total Expenses | \$6,283 | \$9,925 |
| Fund Balances | | |
| Checking | \$1,726 | |
| Savings | \$375 | |
| Mutual Fund | \$25,503 | |

*Because the 2005 Midwest convention was held in June, auction proceeds of \$5164 were included in the previous year's revenue total.

Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Hosted by the Northern Illinois Hosta Society

It's time to begin planning for winter. The Winter Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society that is. This year's big winter event will be held Saturday, January 20, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel, 1800 East Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL (800) 223-1234. They have given us an \$84.00 room rate. Please make your own reservations, before January 6, and mention the Hosta Society to guarantee the rate. The Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel is the same great location as last year's very successful event.

Again we have an All Star line-up of speakers with interesting and timely topics:

- 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 Schwarz — Hosta Gardens and Nurseries of Holland
- Bill Roston — A Different Way to Create More Hostas
- Mark Zilis — Hostas of Distinction

The cost of the winter extravaganza is only \$45.00 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and a deli buffet lunch. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society, and mail before January 6, 2007, with your name, address, phone, and the number attending, to:

Morgan Wilson
1880 N. Hennepin
LaSalle, IL 61301
Phone (815) 224-1383

Sign-up after January 6, 2007 is \$55.00.

Registration will begin on Friday, January 19, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, January 20 from 7:00 am - 8:00 am. The program will run from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday. Dinner Friday and Saturday nights will be on your own at one of the many fine area restaurants. The Hospitality Suite will be open from 7:30 pm - 11 pm, both Friday and Saturday nights, for all that good Hosta fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tom Micheletti, NIHS

Name of first attendee _____ @ \$45.00 \$ _____

Name of 2nd attendee _____ @ \$45.00 \$ _____

Late fee if paid after January 6, 2007 is \$55.00

Total \$ _____

Address of attendee, or contact person:

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Confirmation notices are not sent out. Please retain a copy of this registration form and your check if you are in doubt of registration. Please allow 5 working days for registrations to reach us before the event date. We will be unable to issue refunds after January 6, 2007.

**Mississippi Valley Hosta Society
Hosts**

BIX BLUES

**Midwest Regional Hosta Convention
July 12 – 14, 2007
Davenport, Iowa**

Beautiful gardens, the mighty Mississippi, good friends, and Midwest hospitality are just a few of the things you'll encounter at the 2007 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Bix Blues, to be held July 12 –14 in the Quad Cities. The convention is being hosted by Mississippi Valley Hosta Society and will be centered at the Radisson Hotel located at 111 E. 2nd Street, Davenport, Iowa. Our convention, Bix Blues, got its name from Bix Biederbecke, a jazz musician from the 1920s and a Davenport native.

Friday will feature the Cut Leaf Show and an evening cookout at Vander Veer Botanical Park. The Cut Leaf Show is always an attraction and 2007 is no exception. Midwest Preview featuring new seedlings and sports will be a part of the show. Vander Veer is home to the Hosta Glade, which has been named an AHS National Display Garden. It also features a conservatory, Rose garden, Daylily collection, lagoon, and the Grand Allee leading up to the recently restored stone fountain. Stay until dusk and you're in store for a spectacular light show.

Saturday starts with a deluxe continental breakfast followed by five gorgeous gardens; the Joe and Arlene Schindelar, Howard and Sandy Fedler, Jim and Ellen Kelley, Rick and Teresa Holmquist, and Chub Harper gardens. In addition to hundreds of Hostas the gardens include conifers, water features, companion plants, perennial sun gardens, and beautiful garden art. The buses will return to the hotel in time for lunch. Immediately after lunch is the ever exciting and unpredictable auction. Who knows what great plants will be donated. It's never too early to start planning your strategy. The day will finish with a banquet and awards ceremony along with a guest speaker.

Hosta vendors will be selling Thursday through Saturday featuring dealers from coast to coast. They always have the newest and most desirable plants on the market.

A Hostality Suite is also planned for Thursday through Saturday. It's a great place to greet old friends and make new ones.

Come join us for Bix Blues, the 2007 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention in Davenport, Iowa. We look forward to meeting you. Check the spring newsletter for the convention registration form.



Editor's Page

We would like to begin publishing a membership directory in the *Hosta Leaves*. Plans are to include name, address and telephone number. We are excluding e-mail address as they are frequently changed. If any of this bothers you, please contact one of the MRHS officers.



The MRHS "Red Hats"

Bulk Mail Issue

Because of the use of bulk mail (at a substantial savings), mail will not be forwarded. Members must, therefore, notify Pete Postlewaite, the Treasurer, each time their address changes. This can be done via email (Peter@ShadyPath.com), phone (847-438-7790), or snail mail at the address on the newsletter cover.

Advertise in the *Hosta Leaves*

Contact Floyd Rogers for publishing deadlines and more details. (630) 858-3538 or rogersf@COD.edu.

| Full Color Ads: | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Size | Single Issue | Full Year | Dimensions |
| Full page | \$275 | \$475 | 6½" x 9½" |
| 1/2 page | 175 | 300 | 6½" x 4½" |
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| 1/8 page | 30 | 50 | 3⅛" x 2" |

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY
FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER

Floyd Rogers, Newsletter Editor
21172 Andover Rd
Kildeer, IL 60047

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AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

We invite you to join over 3,000 other hosta enthusiasts as members of the American Hosta Society. Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research having to do with hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families. Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Court, Lorton, VA 22079-3029. Dues for one year are \$25 per year for an individual and \$29 for a family. Joining AHS will enable you to attend our national conventions, next year in Indianapolis, and 2008 in St. Louis.

MIDWEST REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

Our Regional Society is composed of over 300 members in AHS Region Five (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and many members from other states. We publish a twice-a-year newsletter, hold an annual convention each summer, and hold the Winter Scientific Meeting each January in Schaumburg, Illinois. To join, or renew membership, please send a check for \$20 (ten dollars per year) to Peter Postlewaite. Next summer's convention will be held in the Quad Cities, and Chicagoland in 2008. Our conventions include a Hosta Show; a Judges' Clinic; garden tours; speakers; vendors of hostas, companion plants, and garden art; a lively auction; a sit-down banquet and a buffet dinner; and lots of hospitality and fellowship!