



Central Ohio Hosta Society History

**Affiliated with
The Ohio State University**

The Central Ohio Hosta Society formed when Van Wade and Bert Hendley co-chaired a meeting to help organize a new hosta society which would be affiliated with The Ohio State University and Chadwick Arboretum. Van was the first paid member of the group. Officers were elected, by-laws were written and the society was off and running. Many of the members were also volunteers for the Chadwick Arboretum.

The first official meeting occurred with Bob Olson presenting, he is now the AHS Hosta Journal Editor. He was on his way to visit his daughter who was a student at Dennison University, but generously agreed to stop and give a talk to the eager, future members of the COHS.

Van Wade donated plants to establish a hosta collection in the Arboretum and it subsequently was named for him. Eric Hess, Master Gardener and COHS member has assumed stewardship of the garden with volunteer help from the society.

As years have passed, many successful events have occurred. Talks presented by the University staff, knowledgeable members and visiting guest lecturers have taken place. Successful auctions, care of the Van Wade Hosta Collection, leaf shows and parties have been organized.

An annual scholarship is presented to a worthy OSU student. Former scholarship recipient, Laura Burchfield PhD. is now teaching in the Horticulture Department. Dr. Laura Deeter, long time member of the COHS, is also teaching for The Ohio State University and gave the fall talk in 2007.

Through the years, there have been many dedicated members. Charles Tuttle was the first newsletter editor and has given many very informational and wonderful talks. Bill Olson was the first auctioneer, followed by Dan Headapohl and Dave Sayer.

A bench in the honor of Shirley and Van Wade was presented to the University and installed in the Van Wade Hosta Garden by the COHS. Van and Shirley were surprised and delighted with the honor. Several members of their family also attended.

The Central Ohio Hosta Society provides an opportunity for hosta lovers to meet, share experiences and participate in many activities that further their knowledge and enjoyment of shade gardening. They include the following.

- Meetings with gardening speakers
- Annual hosta auction
- Preferred enrollment for Hosta College
- Leaf Show
- Enjoyment of the Van Wade Hosta Collection in Chadwick Arboretum



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Family memberships are \$10 for one year.
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