



*Don Dean*  
AHS President

### Presidents Message

Spring hits me as a long awaited dream each year until unmistakable signs appear, often late for those of us in the northern regions. The first promise of its arrival appears with the miniature *Trillium nivale* before the snow has totally disappeared. The Snow Trillium are soon followed by the appearance of *Dicentra cucullaria* with their delicate pastel blooms and *Scilla siberica* of intense blues that have naturalized nicely amongst the still sleeping hostas and ferns. Clumps of *Sanguinaria canadensis* 'Multiplex' explode with swaths of chromium white flowers that last better than a week as the first signs of the hosta emerge and all of the dreams of a new season beginning become reality.



*Trillium nivale* Snow Trillium



*Dicentra cucullaria* Dutchman's breeches

Like the gardens, hosta society activity picks up to a much faster pace. Local meetings, sales, service projects, and yes the AHS national convention quickly approaches. This event, like the show displayed by our plants is a must not miss event upon many of our calendars. It is not too late to sign up now. If you have never attended, you are invited to join us for another event that will build memories for years to come. Check out <http://www.2015ahsconvention.com/> to learn more.

The society grows and evolves in much the same way as our gardens. Region 7, Eastern Canada Region, is one of two regional areas that do not have a regional society. The previous regional representative left the service roles to pursue other needs. Local Presidents of the three local societies have unanimously selected a new regional representative. We welcome Cindy Deutekom who has graciously agreed to serve in that role as she completes her first term on the AHS Executive Committee.

The Online Journal team that produces our



***Sanguinaria canadensis***

' Multiplex ' Double

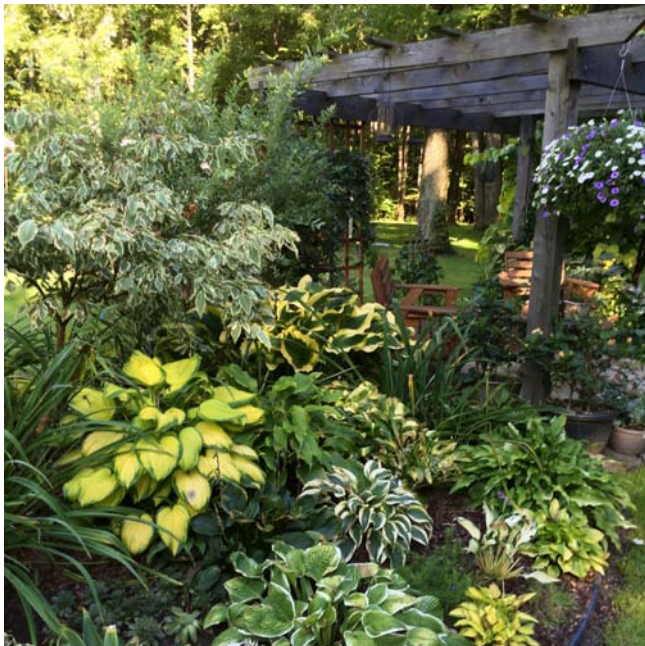
December, convention, issue of the journal has new additions. Jim Weidman, Missouri, and Barry Ankey, Illinois, join the team to fill out the needs of the group. Jim was previously upon the Executive Committee and returns as the OLJ Editor while Barry will take on the role of lining up authors and managing the workflow.

May you all enjoy a rewarding growing season!

In service,

*Don Dean*

**AHS President**



**Barbara  
Schroeder**

**AHS VP Publications**

It has been another busy year for publications. The first Hosta Journal of 2015 is out. This is the second E-Newsletter of 2015. I am happy to welcome Jim Weidman as our new OnLine Journal Editor With him and Barry Ankey joining us, we are back to a full set of volunteers and moving along on schedule. Advertising, Web and Hosta Adventures are working smoothly, as usual, too. I am very blessed to have a good team that works well together.

We had a nice surprise this spring when one of our members decided she needed to downsize and sent us all of her old issues of the journal. I was so happy. We were able to fill up another complete set of journals for the AHS archives. This is our second complete set. We are in need of original issues: 15, 20.2, 21.2, 23.2, 25.1, 28.2, 34.1, 34.3, 35.3, 36.3 and 37.2. If you have two copies and are willing to donate one to us (or have a collection to donate) please email or call me and we can make arrangements. Plus since we got the large set we have old copies of journals available again so if you need some to fill your own collection please contact me. The journals are \$5.00 each plus shipping so think about filling out your collection as well as ours.

*Barbara Schroeder*

**VP Publications**

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**Rob Mortko**  
VP Member Services

**Follow the AHS on Facebook**

Join over 3500 other hosta enthusiasts on Facebook. Moderated by AHS Social Media Chair Rick Goodenough, this has quickly become the go to site for hosta questions and posting hosta pictures. Check it out at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2248595978/>

**AHS Website Inquiries**

You will hopefully experience a quicker turnaround when you post a question via the AHS website. Inquiries no longer need to be manually sorted and forwarded to the relevant individual. AHS Web Editor-in-Chief Josh Spece has added a drop down topic menu which now forwards your inquiry directly to the relevant AHS Board member.

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Contacts/ContactUs.htm>

**New AHS Display Gardens**

The number of official AHS Display Gardens continues to grow with three new additions:

- z The Hosta Glen at Simpson Garden Park in Bowling Green, Ohio (sponsored by the Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society)
- z 'Tranquility - The Cornelia B. Holland Garden' at the University of Tennessee Gardens in Knoxville, TN (sponsored by the University)
- z The Barnes Foundation Arboretum in Merion, Pennsylvania (sponsored by the Delaware Valley Hosta Society)

You can find complete details on all the AHS Display Gardens at:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Community/DisplayGardens.htm>

**A Note to all Club Newsletter Editors**

Many thanks to all editors who regularly share their newsletters with each other, and yet another reminder to send an email to all NLE's if and when an editor change takes place in your club.

*Rob Mortko*

VP Member Services



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*Gregg Peterson*  
VP Judging/Exhibitions

**"You Can Be the Judge of That"**

As you walk through a national or regional convention hosta show, as well as a smaller hosta show hosted by a local society, you might ask the question "Who decides what cut leaf receives the Best of Section ribbon and goes to the Head table? Likewise, you may ponder "What makes one hosta grown in a container receive a higher ribbon than another hosta grown in a different container? In your mind they both are great looking hostas! The answer to both of these questions is an important group in any AHS certified show, the judging panels of AHS Hosta Show Judges.

Hosta Show Judges are selected based on a series of qualifications, including demonstrated participation in both training and judging activities. While knowledge of hostas and competence in evaluating them are important qualities, a potential judge's personal integrity and their ability to work effectively as a member of a judging panel are just as important. A potential judge must be a member of AHS in good standing for 2 consecutive years and maintain active membership. This is important because all Hosta Show Judges are representatives of The American Hosta Society and must act and represent the AHS accordingly.

The Hosta Show Judges Handbook, which can be accessed by anyone at the AHS website under the Show Judging tab, contains the complete requirements, information and application for becoming a judge. There are four levels of Hosta Show judging, each of which builds on experience gained at the previous level. All four levels require atten-

dance and successful completion of the appropriate training clinic, along with participation in hosta shows by judging, clerking and exhibiting. This emphasis on both judging and exhibiting provides all judges with a positive grounding on both perspectives of a Hosta Show.

If you have wondered what it takes to be a AHS Hosta Show Judge, I encourage you to go to the the AHS website and review the requirements outlined in the Show Judges Handbook. Also, feel free to talk to any of the Show Judges working at a local, regional or national Hosta Show. Ask them any questions you might have about judging activities, but also ask them what being an AHS Hosta Show Judge has provide them. I can only speak for myself, but I have not only learned more about exhibiting at shows, more about different hosta cultivars, as well as making a new set of friends to enjoy the "friendship plant" with. I encourage anyone who is considering becoming a Hosta Show Judge to step forward and begin the process. Down the road you can claim to "be the judge of that"!!

*Gregg Peterson*

VP Judging/Exhibitions



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*Cindy Tomashek*

AHS VP Conventions

“Back to the Future” June 18-20 is only weeks away and I’m looking forward to seeing you in Raleigh. It’s not too late to register and be part of the fun – but get your registration in ASAP. Bob and Nancy Solberg have most assuredly put together a great time for all attendees.

Happily, the next available convention hosting opportunity is 2021. It’s never too soon to indicate your interest in hosting a future AHS convention and there are more possibilities than ever to create a one-of-a-kind event. Start collaborating with your local society, friends or neighbors and give me a call, text, or email me to share your plans or ask questions.

2015 – June 18-20, “Back to the Future”,  
Raleigh, North Carolina

2016 – June 15-18, “Gateway to the  
Gardens”, St. Louis, Missouri

2017 – Indianapolis, Indiana

2018 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2019 – TBD (offer pending)

2020 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

The excitement is growing!

Conventionally yours,

*Cindy Tomashek*

AHS VP Conventions  
(507) 250-5311

[Prestonplants@aol.com](mailto:Prestonplants@aol.com)



*Cindy Deutekom*

AHS VP Genus Hosta

### Research and Education Fund

The AHS has implemented a Research and Education Fund for small grants for studies directed at increasing knowledge of the genus Hosta, principally involving hybridizing propagation and culture of hosta. The more knowledge we have in hybridizing, the better, more resistant hostas we will have in our gardens!

Individual projects will be determined and overseen by an Advisory Committee headed up by Roger Smith, Education Chair.

These funds are intended to help students and researchers involved in studying the Genus Hosta.

To request funds, please complete the form titled ‘AHS Request for Funds for Educational Research’. The form is located in the Members Only Section of the AHS website.

For anyone interested that is without Internet access, please contact the Education Chair, Roger Smith. Roger’s contact information is listed on the Board Of Directors Masthead at the back of The Hosta Journal.

*Cindy Deutekom*

AHS VP Genus Hosta





*Sandie*  
*Markland*  
Membership Secretary

The new electronic membership is a great option for the spouses of AHS Life Members who want to actively participate in the AHS, but don't want the additional expense or duplicate publications of a standard membership!

All AHS Memberships run from January 1 through December 31, regardless of when an individual joins or renews. The year of

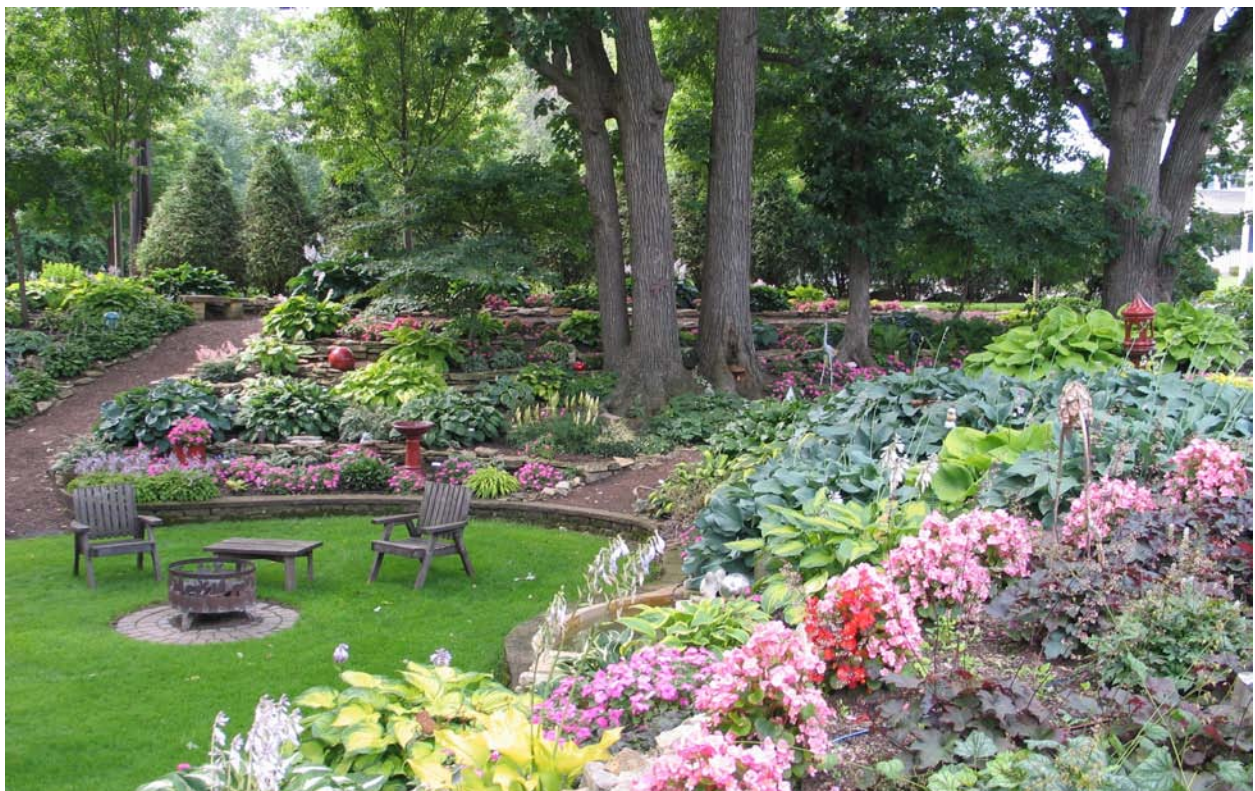
your membership expiration immediately follows your name on the mailing sheet which accompanies each paper publication you receive from the AHS. The second *Journal* mailing of each year is always accompanied by a renewal form.

It is important to keep the AHS Membership Secretary informed of changes in your contact information. If you do not receive AHS mailings due to an unreported change of address, a \$6.00 payment is required to cover the cost of shipping and handling for the replacement issue. Please send address changes to [AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net](mailto:AHSMembershipSecretary@charter.net) as promptly as possible. Individuals who travel between summer and winter homes should advise the Membership Secretary of their change of address approximately 6 weeks in advance.

**AHS Memberships make great gifts for your gardening friends — or great door prizes for your local club events! It's the perfect time or year to introduce your friends to the American Hosta Society and our beautiful Hosta Journal!**

**Happy Spring!! May all your hosta dreams come true!!**

*Sandie Markland*  
Membership Secretary





# Carol Brashear

AHS Region One Director

## FIRST LOOK 2015

Save the dates June 26-28, 2015 to be a part of a very special First Look, where history and the future will combine as never before!

We are returning to the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, site of the 2011 AHS Convention and First Look 11, in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

The First Look Sport and Seedling Competition will be held on Saturday, June 26. Gardeners and hybridizers are invited to bring their new and unique seedlings and sports to be judged by fellow attendees and gardeners as well as AHS accredited judges. Four major prizes will be awarded: the Best Seedling and the Best Sport as determined by the judges, and the Best Seedling and the Best Sport as determined by the attendees. There will also be fun contests, vendors, hospitality and lots of hosta fun!

On Friday evening we will return to a feature that we introduced at First Look 1, The Town Meeting. Attendees will have a round table discussion and we will look to the future and where those who attend wish First Look to go. Is a full BOD and elections in our future? The attendees will decide. Come be a part of this new chapter in the Northeast Region!

This year we are thrilled to welcome Mark Zilis as the Keynote Speaker during the Banquet on Saturday evening. His talk is entitled "Developing New Plants", something with which attendees of First Look are familiar and interested in! Mark will also have his latest book available or will sign your copy.

On Sunday, our open garden tours include three great destinations, including Steve Greene's Greene Acres of Hosta Finder fame.

Information and registration forms can be found at : [www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HomeFrame.htm](http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HomeFrame.htm)



Latest winner of Attendee Best Seedling  
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Latest winner Best Sport Attendees & Judges  
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Winner of FL13 Judges Best Seedling  
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Photos credit: Kathie Sisson



# AHS Membership

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are many benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), and *The Online Journal* (posted on the web for members only). All of these include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards and gardens and news about the AHS.

- z An opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hosta in the hosta show.
- z A Biennial AHS Membership Directory
- z The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- z An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- z Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- z Access to Members Only section of the AHS website

## Other membership benefits:

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. Go to

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Go to <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm> to join online or print the membership application and mail to the Membership Secretary listed.